

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday, October 12, 2015
12:30 PM – The Old U.S. Mint
New Orleans, Louisiana**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum was called to order by Chairman Michael M. Davis at 12:30 PM at The Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Jerry F. Adams; Madlyn B. Bagneris; Robert A. Barnett; Charles R. Davis; Michael M. Davis; Rosemary Upshaw Ewing; Jeffrey Pipes Guice; Janet V. Haedicke, Ph.D.; Kevin Kelly; Thomas Frère Kramer, M.D.; Aleta Leckelt; William J. Perret, M.D.; Anne F. Redd; William J. Wilton, Jr.; Philip Woollam; and Diane K. Zink

Members Absent: Myrna B. Bergeron; Sharon Turcan Gahagan; Allen J. "AJ" Gibbs; Lawrence N. Powell, Ph.D.; and Donna Winters

Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman M. Davis called the meeting to order. Mr. Guice MOVED, seconded by Mr. Wilton, to approve the agenda. **Unanimously approved.**

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 10, 2015 meeting were distributed in advance. Mr. Guice MOVED, seconded by Ms. Bagneris, to approve the LSM Board minutes from August 10, 2015. **Unanimously approved.**

Chairman's Report

Mr. M. Davis said the dates for the next Collections Committee, Irby/Finance Committee and LSM Board meetings are listed on the agenda. The upcoming meetings are as follows:

Collections Committee meeting: December 9, 2015, 1:00 PM
Irby/Finance Committee meeting: November 9, 2015, 10:00 AM
LSM Board meeting: November 9, 2015: 12:30 PM

Until further notice, the Irby/Finance Committee meetings will take place at 10:00 AM.

Mr. R. Davis said DCRT Counsel Ms. Julia George Moore will give a presentation to the Board at the next meeting about the transition to a new Board.

Director's Report

Mr. Tullos gave a PowerPoint presentation and provided a written Director's Report. (See Director's Report October 12, 2015.) In addition to the report Tullos added that last month was the unveiling of the Albrizio Mural in the main room of Capitol Park Museum.

LSM is currently working on next fiscal year's budget and trying to hold an even keel. Some vacant staff positions remain to be filled. These cuts are the most severe in 30 years.

Regarding Capital improvements, the re-roofing of the Lower Pontalba building is complete. LSM maintenance staff is currently in the process of painting the ceilings and ironwork on the balconies of the Lower Pontalba building.

Mr. Guice asked if there has been a replacement on the Vieux Carré Commission who represents the LSM. Mr. M. Davis said he has not heard back on the names he submitted to Mayor Landrieu.

Facility planning in Baton Rouge is checking into the timetable on the Cabildo and Presbytere exterior restorations. Also on the schedule is replacing the courtyard flagstone at The Mint, elevator motor replacement at the Presbytere, and new carpet at The Mint.

Irby/Finance Committee Report

Mr. Barnett said there are issues with the tenant at 503 St. Ann, 2nd floor. Tenant put nails into the exterior brickwork after 2010, when it was treated and sealed. Tenant claimed nails were always there but a letter by the contractor who performed the work stated otherwise. The tenant also had changed the lock on his apartment door without permission, and overwatered his balcony after being asked to stop. Therefore, The Committee is recommending one of two actions: 1) tenant may receive a letter stating his lease will not be renewed in February, 2016 or, 2) because there are three lease violations, tenant may receive a Violation of Lease for Default letter for said violations and his lease would be terminated. DCRT Counsel Ms. Moore will review the two options and advise.

A study group has been formed to look at the proposed residential rent increases that LSM staff recommended. Mr. Barnett, Ms. Zink, and Mr. Kelly will work with LSM staff on new rental recommendations and a decision will be made at either the November or December meeting.

All scaffolding has been removed from the Lower Pontalba building. Staff will review tenant requests for abatement/discount and present them to the Committee next month.

There are two commercial leases up for bid: 517 St. Ann (expiration of lease 2/1/16) and 507 St. Ann (expiration of lease 3/1/16) and Step 1 of the bid process has started.

The commercial tenant at 801 Decatur Street requested a name change from *River's Edge* to *Monty's On the Square*. The owner and a new chef wish to improve their image.

Mr. Barnett MOTIONED for approval of the above recommendations. Seconded by Mr. Wilton, the motions were **unanimously approved**.

Collections Committee Report

Dr. Perret stated that the LSM Board received the report in advance. He requested that the minutes from the Collections Committee meetings be included in the report going forward.

Mr. Woollam asked about employees being affected by thymol on the colonial documents. Mr. R. Davis said the Baton Rouge HR Department will follow up on the issue.

Dr. Perret MOTIONED for approval of the report. Seconded by Mr. Guice, the report was **unanimously approved**.

Friends of the Cabildo Report

At the 1850 House Shop, we ended 1st quarter of the current fiscal year comfortably ahead of last year, and is running about 15% ahead for October. Other September income included \$4,736 in Walking Tours, and 225 Volunteer hours valued at \$9,873.

The 3rd annual Down River Festival, co-sponsored by the FOC, NPS, French Market Corp. & the LMF, took place on Saturday, September 12th, and was attended by more than 5,000 people, which is about five times the attendance at last year's festival. They look forward to doubling the crowd next year, and Jason Strada deserves a special thanks for his part in insuring its success.

The first "Music at the Mint" concert of the current season featuring Deacon John & the Ivories on September 25th was a sell-out, and the FOC expects each of the 3 remaining performances of the season to play for packed houses as well. They are: Lil Buck Senegal, Charmaine Neville and & R&B guitarist/singer Spencer Bohran.

At the August Board meeting, Ms. Burke reported that FOC had several conversations and development meetings with the Colonial Documents reading room staff and Dawn Hammatt, regarding their proposal to provide volunteers to make it possible for the reading room to stay open on a regular basis. They are waiting for that department to provide an outline for training sessions and volunteers duties, before they move forward with this pilot program.

The FOC has engaged John McGill, who recently retired from the senior curator position at HNOG, to guest-curate the new French colonial architecture and lifestyle exhibit at Madame John's Legacy. John has already been through volumes of LSM archival material, had several meetings with staff and is close to developing an exhibit outline, which we'll share with the board once it's been finalized. The costs of both Mr. McGill and the Exhibition are being underwritten by the FOC, and the Exhibit is currently scheduled to open mid-November, 2017.

Ms. Ewing MOVED, seconded by Ms. Leckelt, to approve the report. **Unanimously approved**.

Louisiana Museum Foundation Report

Ms. Maclay said the first issue of their magazine, *La Musée*, was mailed out. They are currently working on the next issue.

LMF continues to have Friday afternoon *Music at the Mint* performances.

The jazz exhibit campaign is going well. LMF hired fundraiser Jeff Hale and they now have a case statement. LMF has invested \$40,000 in the campaign and the LMF Board agreed to another \$75,000. So far, Mr. Hale met with two oil company prospects and has planned meetings with WWOZ and the Jazz & Heritage Foundation. He will be traveling to New York soon to meet with some prospects.

Ms. Maclay thanked Jason Strada, Paula Chance and Greg Lambousy for their assistance with the Downriver Festival.

Mr. Tullos said he is happy to see LMF President Gary Brewster at the meeting and thanked him for his continued assistance with the jazz campaign.

Mr. Brewster addressed the Board and said he loves history and museums. He is very excited about the upcoming jazz exhibit. If LMF and LSM can get big names behind it, it will be a nationally recognized exhibit.

Ms. Maclay is working on the LMF gala, which is set for December 4, 2015 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. It will be a Celebrity Waiter concept.

Dr. Haedicke MOVED, seconded by Ms. Leckelt, to accept report. **Unanimously approved.**

LSM Properties

E.D. White Historic House Report

Ms. Leckelt said the annual Christmas party is scheduled for December 12th from 12:00-2:00 PM. They will open up the outdoor kitchen and get the fireplace going.

Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Foundation Report

Mr. Stark said opening of Robert Warrens' exhibition, *Wing Walkers Celebrating the Restoration of the Wetlands* will take place on October 15, 2015 at 5:30 PM.

Capitol Park Museum Report

The Book Festival will take place on October 31 and is always well attended.

Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum Report

On November 17th, Billy Cannon will do a reading and book signing at the museum.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.