

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

**Monday, June 8, 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: Madlyn B. Bagneris; Robert A. Barnett; Myrna B. Bergeron; Michael M. Davis; Rosemary Upshaw Ewing; Allen J. “AJ” Gibbs; Sharon Turcan Gahagan; Jeffrey Pipes Guice; Janet V. Haedicke, Ph.D.; Aleta Leckelt; William J. Perret, M.D.; Lawrence N. Powell, Ph.D.; and Anne F. Redd; William J. Wilton, Jr.; and Donna Winters

Members Absent: Jerry F. Adams; Charles R. Davis; Kevin Kelly; Thomas Frère Kramer, M.D.; Philip Woollam; and Diane K Zink

Also Present: Ruth Burke, President of the Friends of the Cabildo; Jason Strada, Executive Director of the Friends of the Cabildo; and John Young, Jefferson Parish President

Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman M. Davis called the meeting to order. Mr. Guice MOVED, seconded by Ms. Ewing, to approve the agenda. No public comment. **Unanimously approved.**

Mr. M. Davis asked for a motion to amend the agenda so that Jefferson Parish President and candidate for Lt. Governor John Young could speak. Ms. Winters MOVED to approve the change in agenda, seconded by Ms. Ewing. **Unanimously approved.**

John Young

Mr. Young addressed the Board. Mr. Young thanked the Board for their service to Louisiana and its citizens. Mr. Young is an attorney who graduated from Loyola Law School in 1982. He became Jefferson Parish President in 2010 and has found that the Parish is doing well economically and he feels his is a very transparent government. He was President of PACE (Louisiana Parishes Against Coastal Erosion) in 2014 so he cares about Louisiana. Mr. Young said he knows budgets have been cut and he has witnessed the budget cuts of the museums under the Secretary of State’s office. He would also like to see all of the parks property funded. In addition, Mr. Young said he knows how much tourism matters to the State and he feels he has the experience necessary to be Lt. Governor. Mr. Young is in favor of setting up a Major Events Fund, which can be used to keep big events

coming back to city. Mr. Young said he is very hands-on and will make every effort to personally return phone calls. He knows the Lt. Governor is the face of Louisiana and the heart of tourism and he asked for every person's support to be the next Lt. Governor. He is happy to be educated on any issue the Board may have and is open-minded to learning.

Minutes

The minutes from the May 11, 2015 meeting were distributed in advance. Mr. Guice MOVED, seconded by Ms. Bagneris, to approve the May 11, 2015 LSM Board minutes. No public comment. **Unanimously approved.**

Chairman's Report

Mr. M. Davis advised the Board of the following upcoming meetings:

Collections Committee meeting	August 5th - 1 PM
Irby/Finance Committee meeting	August 10th – 10:00 AM or 10:30 AM
LSM Board meeting	August 10th - 12:30 PM (lunch 12 N)

There will be no meetings in July and September. After the August meeting, the next meeting will be on October 12th, which is Columbus Day but that is not a State holiday.

Mr. M. Davis reviewed the process of how the minutes get written. Ms. Cuccia takes the minutes. She then sends the minutes to Mr. M. Davis and the section that pertains to Irby gets sent to Mr. Barnett and the same is done with the Collections section for Dr. Perret. They then go to Mr. R. Davis and Mr. Tullos and then finally back to Mr. M. Davis for final approval to be printed and distributed.

Director's Report

The Report was sent to the Board in advance of the meeting. However, Mr. Tullos highlighted some points. The LSM staff had a retirement crawfish boil for Chief Landrum at the Mint, which was a great success. There was also a ribbon cutting ceremony for the armoire at the Cabildo.

Mr. Tullos showed a graph which illustrated the budget trends over the last 12 years. The budget has been steadily declining and staff has been cut severely. In addition, there is still \$1 million being taken out of the Office of Tourism's budget to pay for the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum in Natchitoches and for general LSM operations. Over the last 12 years, LSM has acquired two more museums and is now maintaining 11 properties with less staff.

Mr. Tullos showed pictures of the maintenance work being done at the Lower Pontalba apartments. The hallways leading to the back of the apartments were built to be open to outside air and therefore, can't be air conditioned. The Maintenance staff has been enclosing these hallways and adding central air, which protects the apartments and wood from damage due to moisture and termites. At the present time, there are only four (4) apartments remaining that are not enclosed.

LSM is currently renovating the Cabildo catering kitchen.

Mr. Tullos then referred to the handout showing the Jackson House, which housed The Roots of Music (ROM) for the past six years. The plan is to restore it to the way it was historically. LSM hopes to use it as meeting space, public event space and perhaps rental space for offices.

Mr. Tullos said we need a new HVAC unit on top of 1000 Chartres. The systems are currently twenty years old. Mr. Guice asked if we are going after grants. Mr. Tullos replied that there are not many Capital Improvement or Historic Preservation grants available.

Mr. Wheat spoke more on the budget situation. Years ago, the Museum had 117 employees and 2 less sites. Now we have 50% less maintenance staff. Our budget used to be \$11 million and now it's \$4.7 million. The Cabildo and Presbytere Capital Improvement requests were sent to the legislature years ago, and we got approval for the improvements, but only for planning. Now the budget for improvements has increased with inflation. Facility Planning & Control owns the building, so our hands are somewhat tied in the administering of the job. Mr. Tullos stated that LSM needs to start working on a private endowment fund now to cultivate people's interest. Mr. Barnett noted that private funding has hardly increased over the years, to which Mr. Tullos said we needed to work on our identity, first and foremost. Now we have a logo and a new website so the increased marketing has really helped get the word out. Dr. Haedicke asked if there was a way to sell 1000 Chartres and have storage somewhere else. Mr. Tullos said he hopes one day that we could sell that building and move staff outside of the Quarter with free parking but that may be way down the road.

Sometimes Mr. Tullos and staff hear frustration from the community that we are not doing enough as staff but those frustrations should be directed to the legislature and Governor to restore our budget.

Ms. Redd said, as a neighborhood watch preservationist, she wants to make sure the LSM is not violating preservation codes by enclosing the hallways at the Lower Pontalba building. Mr. Wheat said staff is only adding a facade so if it was removed, the hallways would be back to their original states. We are making the hallways enclosed and water tight so that rain can't run down the wall into the foundation and termites would become a problem.

Ms. Redd then asked what buildings we charge for in the way of rentals. Mr. Tullos said we charge for all of the LSM properties and want to bring the Jackson House back to a rentable level. LSM also plans to charge at the Mint again once the jazz exhibit opens. Dr. Haedicke said LSM should market more for our properties. Ms. Winters asked if LSM has ever had a legislative thank you event at one of the properties and Mr. Tullos said only at Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge but the legislators have not really seen the New Orleans properties.

Ms. Winters asked what our priority Capital Outlay project costs are and Mr. Wheat replied that if the Governor signs HB2, we will get the money for the Caibldo and Presbytere. The State takes care of the buildings and pays the staff and that is it. Costs for exhibits and conservation are raised from private donations. Mr. Tullos said one of the interns at the La. Historical Center (LHC) talked to him about a prospective donor who wanted to donate to the LHC. She kept up correspondence with him and he donated \$50,000 for our intern project at the LHC.

Mr. M. Davis suggested Board members who are interested should become educated on the distinctions and facets of the LSM properties, like the Jackson House, Creole House, etc.

LSM Legislation

Ms. Burke, President of the Friends of the Cabildo, informed the Board that the Museum legislation passed on the house floor and will be soon signed into law. Going forward, Board members will be required to have backgrounds in marketing, law, historical preservation, fundraising, etc. The legislation will reduce the number of Lt. Governor at-large appointments from 11 to 8. Stakeholder representation will increase to two for the FOC, two for the LMF, and two for the Friends of Capitol Park Museum. The board member terms will be staggered and limited to two four-year terms. The Board may collaborate on the State budget and, in consultation with the DCRT Secretary and Staff, on fiscal policy, but the ultimate authority for the LSM budget, fiscal affairs, and operations remains with the Lt. Governor and DCRT. Dr. Haedicke said she wants to make sure the Board does not end up at odds with the Lt. Governor and feuding with him over budgets or the State's interests in the Museums. Ms. Ewing said she sees this Board not being in synch with the Lt. Governor should the bill be signed. He holds the money and can cut funding any time. Ms. Burke informed the Board that the legislation that the FOC lobbied for regarding the Board, Director and budget has passed and is now going to be sent to the Governor for his signature.

Ms. Ewing and Dr. Haedicke both expressed strong disappointment that the full Board was never made aware of this legislation and that they had absolutely no say in its contents until after the fact. While they support some of the measures, they resent the fact that Ms. Burke and Mr. M. Davis deliberately kept it a secret. Several Board members also expressed their displeasure that the full Board was not brought into the discussion until it was too late to give comments and opinions on the legislation.

Ms. Burke reiterated that she made Chairman M. Davis aware of the FOC's plans to lobby for such legislation in April, 2015 and felt it was not her place to inform the Board, but that the responsibility was the Chairman's. She said that Lt. Governor Dardenne was made aware of the FOC's plan and did not oppose the legislation, subject to and after some initial changes were made, particularly as it related to preserving the provisions whereby the LSM Director serves at the pleasure of the Lt. Governor. Mr. Guice then pointed out that since the current Lt. Governor is departing, that is the reason he didn't have a problem with it. He would have preferred the FOC wait until a new Lt. Governor was in place so that both he and the new Board could discuss the proposed legislation in detail.

Ms. Leckelt said she supports the legislation, but felt blindsided when someone asked her what she thought of the legislation and she knew nothing about it.

Ms. Ewing said the funds the FOC used for lobbying efforts for this legislation might have been better served to support the LSM's programming and exhibits.

Irby/Finance Committee Report

Mr. Barnett said the budget for 2015-16 will be presented in detail at the August 10th meeting by Mr. R. Davis. Until that time, the Irby/Finance Committee recommended to the Board that it

continue to operate under the same financial plan until the next Irby meeting in August and, in essence, operate status quo for 60 days.

Mr. Barnett next discussed the re-roofing project at the Lower Pontalba as moving into its final phase very soon. At the October meeting, the Committee will deal with any rental abatement issues.

Mr. Barnett next discussed the need for a rent study. He reported that The French Market Corp. has still not sent its rent study because our written request was not discussed at their May 26 meeting. The French Market Corp. is expected to review the study at its June, 2015 meeting and is expected to forward a copy of its file to Ms. Washington. The Irby/Finance Committee recommends deferring the discussion of residential rent increases until the August meeting.

Mr. Barnett next spoke of the recent request of all tenants to remove plants from balconies to avoid continued damage to floors and railings. He said that all plants had been removed from railings and balconies. Staff is to be inspecting and reporting in due course.

Mr. Barnett discussed a special request made by the residential tenant at 810 Chartres Street, 2nd floor to only pay 25% of the damage to her railings. It was discussed that the existing damage was due solely to the plant irrigation system and that the decay was not caused by natural elements. The Irby/Finance Committee recommends, with one dissenting vote, to reject the tenant's request and require tenant pay 100% of the cost for repairs. Tenant will be sent a copy of the Irby/Finance Committee section of the Minutes pertaining to the ruling (in due course), the bill for repairs and assumption of responsibility for repairs within 30 days of completion of the job.

Mr. Barnett also reported that Mr. Fisher, tenant at 503 St. Ann Street, 2nd floor, had appeared before the Irby/Finance Committee and stated that the base of his railing was "rusted through" and that there are three support members of his railing and one is not connected. Mr. Fisher stated that the failure of the railing caused a danger to him and his family should they go out on their balcony. Mr. Fisher described the spots and location of the railing failures. Mr. Barnett had requested Mr. Levy immediately place a barrier on the balcony to stop any person from using it until it could be thoroughly inspected and repaired. Mr. Levy was also asked to immediately inspect Mr. Fisher's railing, take pictures, make repairs as necessary and in the meantime, please put caution tape on the balcony to prevent Mr. Fisher and his family from going out onto the balcony until it was secure; Mr. Barnett wanted to be sure that brightly colored markings placed everyone on notice. Mr. Barnett also made it clear to Mr. Fisher that he, too, was on notice about the condition of the railing and the hazard that had been created according to Mr. Fisher's representation. Mr. Barnett asked Mr. Fisher if he understood the gravity of his representations. Mr. Fisher agreed that he understood the severity of the situation and that he was "on notice." Mr. Levy will then report his findings at the next Irby/Finance Committee meeting in August.

Mr. Barnett also stated that the Irby/Finance Committee recommends that the Board approve a motion to have Mr. Levy inspect Mr. Fisher's balcony railing, cordon the area off with caution tape, and not allow Mr. Fisher or his family to go out on the balcony until any repairs were made.

Mr. Barnett stated that the Irby/Finance Committee also recommends that Ms. Washington send an e-mail and follow up with a letter in the mail to all commercial and residential tenants that if any

tenant has safety concerns regarding any apartment, interior or exterior, each is free to bring it up at the next meeting on August 10th. This letter should be reviewed by DCRT Counsel Julia George Moore.

Finally, Mr. Barnett stated that the Irby/Finance Committee recommends that for all future agendas, there be a section entitled "Public Comment" in order to allow any member of the public, and specifically tenants, an opportunity to approach the Irby/Finance Committee with ideas, concerns or complaints.

A motion was made by Mr. M. Davis to accept, approve and adopt all recommendations of the Irby/Finance Committee. There was no public comment. Seconded by Mr. Guice, the motions were **unanimously approved.**

Collections Committee Report

The Collections Committee Report was inadvertently omitted from the agenda. Mr. M. Davis gave the report since Dr. Perret was not at the Committee meeting. The report was sent out in advance for review. Ms. Redd MOVED, seconded by Ms. Leckelt, to approve the report, with one exception. **Unanimously approved.**

The Collections Committee did **NOT** approve continuing the loan to Treasurer Kennedy's office until LSM staff can check on the lighting in his office. Therefore, Treasurer Kennedy's request is on hold for two (2) months until his office can meet lighting requirements.

Lastly, the issue with the loaned Cadillac to Jackson Barracks was addressed by Attorney David Dalia, who determined that the Cadillac is not the property of the LSM and we will make no further claims on the car. Ms. Leckelt MOVED, seconded by Ms. Bagneris, to agree with Mr. Dalia's decision. Motion was **unanimously approved.**

Friends of the Cabildo Report

Ms. Burke gave the report.

Volunteer hours - \$5,960 valued at \$144,000.

1850 House Shop had \$177,000 in retail sales for the current year-to-date (\$172,000 was the previous year's total sales).

Current year retail sales were 20% below projections for May, probably due to the scaffolding/crane impeding entrance to the shop.

The FOC is developing a volunteer program for the LSM Reading Room to keep it open five (5) days a week.

The FOC approaching the LMF regarding a joint fundraising campaign for the LSM Jazz exhibit, which will be discussed in more detail at the upcoming June 18th FOC meeting.

Louisiana Museum Foundation Report

Ms. Redd gave the report.

For this fiscal year through May 31st, the LMF has expended a total of \$787,162 and administered 30 contracts for Museum projects.

The grant for the Murals of Clementine Hunter exhibition in Natchitoches has been closed out, as has the History Channel grant for the Reading Room attendant. The LMF is continuing to work with Museum staff on the administration of the NEH grant for the Colonial Documents project and the National Park Service grant for the salt intrusion issue at Madame John's Legacy.

The LMF has contracted with Dr. Jeff Hale to provide a plan for possible implementation of a campaign to raise funds for the permanent Jazz exhibition. The plan, once completed, will be submitted to the LMF's Board for approval.

Ms. Redd said the LMF continues to provide Friday daytime performances for Music at the Mint and they are close to finalizing six (6) evening performances.

The LMF's final Board meeting of the fiscal year will take place on June 18th. It will be Ms. Redd's last meeting as the LMF's President and then Gary Brewster takes over July 1st.

LSM properties

E.D. White Historic House Report

Ms. Leckelt said they are moving forward with the "Kids Under the Oaks" program. The students will come out and provide materials and all monies will be donated to E.D. White Historic House. In addition, local art studios are also committed to the project.

Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Foundation Report

Mr. Tullos said that LSM is still working on the cypress side of the exhibit to make improvements.

Capitol Park Museum Report

Staff in Baton Rouge is currently working on exhibit lighting improvements.

Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum Report

Ms. Gahagan said The Sports Hall of Fame Foundation 2015 Induction Ceremony will take place on June 26.

The LSM Board did not get the information in the mail. Ms. Gahagan said she would send out the information to the Board via e-mail and apologized for the oversight.

Activities are as follows:

- Thursday, June 25th will be a La Capitol Federal Credit Union welcome reception at Maglieux's Restaurant.
- Friday, June 26th will be the SHOF golf tournament at Oak Wing Golf Club

- Saturday, June 27th will be the SHOF Induction Ceremony at the Natchitoches Event Center.

New Business

Ms. Winters thanked the Board for their patience with her ongoing physical constraints and living so far away from New Orleans. She is much better now and will make every effort to attend future meetings.

Adjournment 2:33 PM.