**Pointe Coupee Historical Society**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 21, 2024**

**Call to order** – Welcome and Mission Statement

President Jeanne James called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and pointed out the Mission Statement for all to view.

**Roll Call** – Secretary Paula Lambert called the roll. Present were President Mrs. Jeanne James, Dr. Hosea Doucet, Mrs. Rose O’Rear, Mrs. Marsue May, Secretary Mrs. Paula Lambert,

Mr. David James, Mrs. Melissa Smith, Mrs. Mindy LaCour, Executive Director, Mrs. Michelle Rabalais and Treasurer Mr. Joseph H. Cotten, Jr. Absent: Vice President Mr. Greg LaCour, Fr. Pike Thomas, Mr. Peter Alongia

**Accept minutes from the December meeting:**  Mrs. Michelle Rabalais moved to amend the minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting to reflect her title as Mrs. rather than Ms. to reflect her status as a widow and chose to use her maiden name Rabalais. Mr. David James motioned to accept the minutes. Mrs. Marsue May seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Mr. Joseph H. Cotten, Jr. gave the Treasurer’s Report. The balance for building fund is $43,045.68, the balance for the general fund is $61,933.94, the balance for the savings account is $52,094.25, and the CD is worth $104,253.26. Mr. Cotten asked the board to approve him acquiring a new 7-month CD with an interest rate of 5.07% APY 5.2%. The current CD becomes due on April 13, 2024 with Guaranty Bank. Mr. Joseph H Cotten, Jr., Treasurer, will have signature authority for the CD.

Mrs. Mellissa Smith moved to accept the Financial Report and to have Mr. Joseph Cotton acquire a new 7-month CD at the 5.07% APY 5.2% rate, and Mrs. Rose O’Rear seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Mindy LaCour reported on the upcoming events: Street Dance and Jazz Brunch.

* Ms. Aimee Moreau will send an email blast.
* Mr. Brent Labatut has created a committee to display memorabilia for the Street Dance.
* The exhibit of memorabilia will be displayed until June 2024.
* Black tablecloths were purchased for the event.
* Henry Watson was paid $500 for a painting for the auction.
* Mrs. Donna Ewing donated a butterfly painting for the auction.
* Oxbow Rum will provide a signature drink.
* Display cases will be moved from the storage room the week of March 25, 2024.
* Mrs. Mindy LaCour has spoken to Chief Epps about security detail.
* Paper products have been ordered.
* 2 graduating classes will have their name on the donor board.
* Menu cards will be printed when musician’s bios are received.
* Centre for the Arts is advertising their jambalaya sales online.
* Le Doux books and New Roads and Old Rivers books will be sold at the event, along with ceramic light-up Poydras Building. We can also sell chair back plaques.
* Pointe Coupee Banner ads for the Jazz Brunch have been created and will be run the week of March 25, 2024.
* Mrs. Rose O’Rear will contact detainees for help with the trash for the event.
* Mrs. Mindy LaCour requested help from the board for set-up and clean-up for both events. Set-up will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday Help with check-in, book sales, etc. will be needed.
* Saturday set-up will begin at 3:30 p.m. The event is from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**Executive Director’s Report:** Mrs. Mindy LaCour gave the Executive Director’s Report. Please see attached.



**Executive Director’s report**

1. Paula and Mindy would like to name the 3rd floor museum space in hopes of applying for grants to keep it going.

Museum at The Poydras Center, suggestions were made to include the name Julien Poydras

1. Met with Kendall Hebert, new CASA ED for our parish. We are partnering with the Sheriff’s dept, ECC, and CASA to put a press conference on, April 15 in our yard to spark awareness for prevention of child abuse (Pinwheel pins)
2. Watched a zoom for the $10,000 mitigation grant we were awarded
3. $5,000 in advance for George Karam’s rental through Dec. 2025
4. Treated the yard for ants
5. Greg and I did some touch up painting in the museum rooms
6. We have a wasp problem in the 3rd floor Pilates room; Delta Pest control will try again
7. S & S Sprinklers replaced 20 sprinkler heads, covered by mitigation grant LEH. Waiting on the pressure switches to come in that are back ordered.
8. $5K reimbursement check came from our ECC donation
9. Paula and I met with American Cruise Line to encourage a partnership with them. Baton Rouge Port Authority was also present. They took the tour of the Poydras Center. American Queen Voyages went bankrupt.
10. The Pilates room AC is in disrepair. The inside unit will be replaced. Approx. $4200. Jimmy will be working on it this weekend
11. I assisted Paula with hosting United Mississippi Bank management and our city and parish officials today for a luncheon. They are a new bank in town. They will be located at the corner of Major PKWY and Main Street. We might consider using them!

**Up Coming Events:**

March 26: Alternative program (PCP schools) to hold Easter Egg hunt in our front yard

April 5, 6: Market at the Mill (anyone else want to volunteer to work?)

April 12, 13: Wine Down on False River

April 15: Child Abuse awareness press conference @The Poydras Center

April 27, 28: 100 Year Celebration Weekend

**New Business:**

***Pointe Coupee Banner Article announcing Board of Directors and Officers:*** Mrs. Mindy LaCour will place an article in the Pointe Coupee Banner announcing new Board of Directors and Officers.

***Plan a tribute to Randy Harelson***: President Mrs. Jeanne James suggested honoring the life of Mr. Randy Harelson at The Julien Poydras Center. Mrs. Michelle Rabalais suggested naming a room in the permanent exhibit after him. Possible ideas were discussed for honoring Mr. Harelson.

***Reinstatement of Board Members and Committees:*** Mrs. Michelle Rabalais recommended that all committees be formally reinstated. President Mrs. Jeanne James stated that committee reinstatement will be appointed at the next meeting. Mr. Joseph H. Cotten, Jr. recommended that the committees be appointed at the Annual Meeting and suggested having an organizational meeting after the Annual Meeting.

***Mulch around Oak Trees to protect the root system:*** Mr. David James will have free mulch delivered and spread around the tree to protect it. There will be enough mulch to put around the rest of the trees in Poydras Park.

**Old Business**:

***Tree Trimming:***  Mrs. Mindy LaCour reported that Mr. Pete Morales has been paid.

***Rebirth Grant:*** Ms. Michelle Rabalais reported on the status of the grant. She will be working to complete it by October 2024. Mrs. Rabalais mentioned approaching St. Augustine to collaborate with the Historical Society for the oral history portion of the project. Mrs. Mellissa Smith offered to reach out to community members who might be interested in participating in the project. Ideas surrounding the project include photographs, a possible potluck lunch, and transportation for participants. The timeline is set for June 1, 2024. This will be an invitation-only event and is planned to be completed by the end of June.

***Update on Jane Pittman Oak Sign Replacement:*** President Mrs. Jeanne James stated that a donor has approached the PC Historical Society about replacing the sign that was stolen.

Mr. David James presented security options for the new sign including a camera in the tree and stronger attachments for the marker and a 6-inch steel pipe inserted into concrete into the ground. Mrs. Rabalais suggested putting a tag on the sign that will track its location and an alarm that might be inserted in the pole that holds the sign.

**Adjournment:** Mrs. Michelle Rabalais moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. David James seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Next meeting: April 18, 2024**