

PCHS Board Meeting
May 18, 2023
Minutes

After calling the meeting to order at 6 PM, our President Michelle Rabalais welcomed those in attendance and read from our PCHS Mission Statement.

1.Roll Call: Members present included Michelle Rabalais, Greg LaCour, Rose O’Rear, Jeanne James, Carlyn Morales, Paula Lambert, David James, Debbie Martin, Camille Collins, and Mindy LaCour. Janet Humphreys participated via telephone.

2.A motion was made by Carlyn Morales to approve minutes from our April meeting. Greg LaCour seconded her motion.

3.Dr. Hosea Doucet was introduced to the board by Michelle Rabalais as a potential Board Member.

4.Our treasurer Rose O’Rear presented her report which stated a balance of \$39,431.21 in the PCHS Building Fund, along with \$30,035.44 in the PCHS Society Fund. The balance in our PCHS Savings Account is \$52,006.69, with our Certificate of Deposit balance being \$100,691.71. David James moved to accept the Treasurers Report as written and Greg LaCour seconded his motion.

5.Executive Directors report: Mindy LaCour

- Our AV tech guy is assessing the needs for the sound room and recommending items, brands and pricing. The \$10,000 in proceeds from the PCHS Jazz Brunch will be used to purchase among other things, a new digital mixing board, a router, new speakers, and a microphone system.
- Mindy reported that the Louisiana Rural Tourism and Byways Conference that she recently attended in Port Allen was very informative. For attending the meeting, PCHS will be receiving \$2500 from the Lieutenant Governor ‘s office to be spent on marketing and advertising. More info to come.
- Maintenance and improvements continue to progress at the Museum. \$19,000 of the \$30,000 we earned in grants has been spent. An upcoming project will be replastering and painting the Museum room in between art shows.
- Mindy estimates we will receive approximately \$2000 from 225 Gives. As this money was not earmarked, Mindy suggested it go towards our share of printing “New Roads and Old Rivers” next and final edition. David James moved that we allocate this money to that expense and Debbie Martin seconded his motion.
- Mindy announced the wonderful news that she applied for and received a 2023 Louisiana Culture Care Fund Grant for \$10,000 which covers general operating expenses.
- McConnell roofing has patched our roof and will send the invoice next week.
- Sprinkler heads were supposed to have shipped on May 11.
- Light bulbs throughout the building will be replaced next week.
- Mindy proposed that we join the Louisiana Association of Museums at a cost of \$50 per year. Carlyn Morales made a motion to approve that suggestion and she was seconded by David James.
- Mindy read a thank you note from the Chamber of Commerce in appreciation for our sponsorship of Boiling on the River.
- Update on Lew Carter record collection: David James expressed the urgent need to have the collection removed from its present location citing possible serious structural damage and potential catastrophic results due to the weight of the collection. He implored the board to

move with haste to remove the records and alleviate the hazardous situation, following years of unsuccessful efforts to locate anyone interested in assuming the collection. Michelle Rabalais announced that she had been in conversation with Tulane University discussing the possibility of them acquiring the collection. She plans to meet with officials from Tulane in the days ahead. David James made a motion that we proceed with removal of the albums via either sales or donation -without inventory or documentation- by July 1. Greg LaCour seconded the motion. The board agreed that the records need to be boxed and moved from the 3rd floor ASAP. Debbie Martin offered to contact Judge Kimball about possible community service hours being allocated to the project and Greg LaCour offered to ask Sherriff Thibodeaux the same question.

6.Acquisitions Committee Report: Debbie Martin

- Debbie reported that they are still recruiting members to serve on this committee. The committee plans to inventory all acquisitions and create three binders detailing their results: one to remain in the Executive Director's office, one to remain with the President of PCHS and one to be held by the Acquisitions Committee chairperson.
- Debbie announced that the Redmond "Skipper" Post family of Baton Rouge is interested in donating a large painting to the Museum. Debbie made a motion that we accept the painting and invite the family to our June meeting. Her motion was seconded by Greg LaCour.

7.New Business:

Mindy announced that she had received a letter of resignation from board member Creighton Stout; he has offered to remain on the building/ maintenance ad hoc committee. We appreciate Creighton's years of service to the PCHS board.

8.Old Business:

- David and Greg will continue investigating lighting options for the front walkway using funds from the NextEra donation. David met with the electrician who will be handling the project.
- Mindy provided accounting of \$5650 which was obtained from the sales of albums from the Lew Carter collection.
- Mindy shared that we currently have 62 PCHS members.
- Marsue May, our Events Committee chair person was unable to attend this meeting, but discussion ensued on the 100 year anniversary of Poydras celebration to be held next year. We set a tentative date for the weekend of June 22 and 23rd, 2024.
- The events committee has been brainstorming about other possible activities/ field trips which could be sponsored by the PCHS.

9. After thanking Dr Doucet for attending our meeting this evening, he departed, and Carlyn Morales made a motion to accept him as a new member of the PCHS Board of Directors and she was seconded by Greg LaCour. It was unanimous that Dr. Doucet be invited to be a Board Member. Welcome Dr. Doucet!

10. Adjournment: There being no further business, David James made a motion to adjourn and his motion was seconded by Greg LaCour.

Respectfully submitted: Jeanne James