

## Minutes April 2023 Board Meeting

Call to Order: Our President Michelle Rabalais called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and read from our PCHS Mission Statement.

1. Roll Call: members present included Michelle Rabalais, Greg LaCour, Rose O'Rear, Jeanne James, Marsue May, Peter Alongia, Debbie Martin, Camille Collins, and Mindy LaCour. Janet Humphreys joined us by telephone.
2. Greg LaCour moved that we accept the minutes from our March meeting as written. He was seconded by Debbie Martin.
3. Treasurers Report: Our Treasurer Rose O'Rear shared that the balance in the PCHS Society Fund was \$31,102.55. The balance in our PCHS Building Fund is \$38,226.30. Rose noted that one of the deposits in the Building Fund was from Stout Architecture who will be moving to a larger space in the building. She clarified that the deposit from his existing space will apply to the new lease once signed. The balance in the PCHS Savings account is \$51,998.71, which reflects a \$100,000 withdrawal which Rose was able to place in a Certificate of Deposit earning 4.25 APY. Rose was congratulated on securing that rate with a local bank who agreed to match a rate from a competing bank in Baton Rouge. David James moved that we accept the Treasurers Report as written and he was seconded by Greg LaCour.
4. Executive Director's Report: Mindy LaCour
  - a. The wedding which took place on the grounds of the PCHS museum was a huge success and resulted in several inquiries.
  - b. Mindy and Greg repaired some of the black-out curtains in the auditorium.
  - c. Thank you notes were sent to all the Jazz Brunch sponsors. We received a thank you note from Lori Averill.
  - d. Construction/ repairs have begun on the first floor with the \$30,000 in funds received from the Louisiana Main Street Grant and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Grant.
  - e. Mindy watched an informative Zoom and went to BR to collect items for 225GIVES. Early giving begins April 20 leading up to the actual 225GIVES day on May 4. The PCHS will receive a proportional share of the total donations plus donations given to PCHS given during these 2 weeks, donations are encouraged. There is a link on our website
  - f. Our present pop-up art show will soon be replaced with the Treasures of Pointe Coupee art show which will be on exhibit for the first 2 weeks in June.
  - g. Mindy purchased and replaced some lightbulbs and will contact an electrician to repair one outdoor sconce.
  - h. We received notice that the parts for our sprinkler system will ship on May 11.
  - i. Events:
    - April 14: Lake Charles antique car club came for a tour.
    - April 22: Wine Down on False River.
    - April 29: Arts Council art classes on the third floor
    - May 5: Chamber of Commerce crawfish boil. Mindy suggested a \$100 sponsorship donation. A motion was made to approve Mindy's suggestion by Rose O'Rear and was seconded by Peter Alongia.
    - May 3-5: Mindy will be attending the Louisiana Rural Tourism and Byways conference in Port Allen.
    - June 17: there will be a one-year-old birthday party in the museum rooms. Mindy will be out of town so she requested a volunteer to be at Poydras from 3 to 7 PM that day.
    - The American Queen is finished with visits until the Fall.
5. Events Committee report: Marsue May reported a very successful Jazz Brunch yielding approximately \$10,000 in profit. The Events Committee met the morning after the brunch to discuss "lessons learned" and ways to improve on next year's event.

6. New Business:

- a. NextEra made a \$1000 donation to be used on the Poydras grounds. Greg and David will collaborate as to the best use of those funds... Ideally some improved lighting near the front right corner of the building.
- b. The book New Roads and Old Rivers is now out of print. We will need to explore options as to how to obtain more copies.
- c. Mindy will send out requests for proposals on work to be done in the sound booth. Several names were suggested to her as possible resources.
- d. It was noted that the Poydras center will be 100 years old in 2024. We will plan to celebrate in some official capacity!
- e. Debbie Martin agreed to chair an Acquisitions Committee which would assess the current status/ inventory of any previous acquisitions by the PCHS.
- f. Michelle Rabalais indicated that we need to establish a notation for our Acquisitions in our financial records. Michelle and Rose will confer as to how best to document.
- g. Michelle announced that she had received a letter of resignation from the board from Blake Sheeler. We appreciate Blake's years of service and understand that work and family commitments prevent him from continuing to serve at this present time.
- h. Camille Collins proposed looking into a possible Wedding Expo at the Museum and offered to do a little fact-finding for our next meeting.
- i. Marsue announced that the next Events Committee meeting will be held May 1 at 7 PM via Zoom.

7. Old Business:

- a. Budget
  - b. Bylaws Committee: Peter will continue on as chair and Greg volunteered to serve as co-chair of the committee.
  - c. Discussion continued as to the best means of removing/disposing of the Lew Carter record collection from the Museum due to its deteriorating state and the dangerous weight load it is bearing in its current location. After much back and forth, Rose moved that we table the discussion until our next meeting and she was seconded by Greg.
8. There being no further business, David moved to adjourn and was seconded by Debbie. Board concluded at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne James