

Pointe Coupee Historical Society Board Meeting
August 17, 2023
Minutes

Our President, Michelle Rabalais called the meeting to order and read from the PCHS Mission Statement.

1. **Roll Call:** Members present included Michelle Rabalais, Greg LaCour, Rose O'Rear, Jeanne James, Carlyn Morales, Marsue May, David James, Peter Alongia, Hosea Doucet, and Mindy LaCour. Absent: Paula Lambert, Pat Roeling, Camille Collins, Debbie Martin, Janet Humphreys

2. Greg LaCour moved that we accept the minutes from the July meeting and he was seconded by Carlyn Morales.

3. **Treasurers Report:** Rose O'Rear reported that the balance in the PCHS Society Fund as of July 31, 2023 was \$17,398.70. The balance in the PCHS Building Fund as of August 21, 2023 was \$19,646.99. The PCHS Savings Account balance was \$52,033.48 while our Certificate of Deposit balance is \$101,753. Carlyn Morales moved that we accept the Treasurer's report and was seconded by Pete Alongia.

4. **Events Committee Report:** Marsue May announced that plans are underway for a showing of the movie "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" in the Poydras Center auditorium on August 27, 2023. Michelle will get the advertising together for this as it is very short notice. This will be followed by a "History Harvest" gathering on September 17, 2023 at the Poydras Center to document life on Cherie Quarters, the former home of renowned Pointe Coupee author Ernest Gaines. This will be by appointment only. Michelle Rabalais announced that she has applied for a \$16,000.00 grant to help fund our proposed Ernest Gaines Festival weekend planned for 2024.

The first meeting to start discussions on the 100-yr celebration occurred before the board meeting. Mindy went over the initial plans. The date for the celebration will be the weekend of April 27th and 28th with a 2-day event. Sponsor packets will be sent out soon. Next meeting will be Monday, August 28th at 5:30pm at The Poydras Center.

5. **Executive Directors Report:** Mindy LaCour



Executive Director's report

8/17/23

- Garage Sale netted \$906 for the Society Fund and \$110 for the collections fund. Will continue to sell and donate the records
- We have sold 4 NROR books; 5 memberships; 2023 to date = 71 members \$15,525 in dues
- I registered us with BRAF 's Giving Store in case anyone is looking for donation opportunities
- We have been reimbursed \$10,000 for Mainstreet grant
- Met with Gale and Arts Council to start working on a small joint fundraiser; Taste of PC January 20, 2024
- Attended NextEra's open house and touched base with our area rep to talk about sponsorship for 100-year celebration
- Attended Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn. Major gave a "state of the Parish" update; we will host the next one at Poydras
- We now have fiber lines for phone and internet instead of copper. (AT&T)

- Will attend Louisiana Travel Summit at the end of the month in Baton Rouge. Will participate in a booth advertising our Parish, New Roads, and the building
- Would like to suggest that when I have overtime hours for an event, I invoice the building fund to cover my pay. When we rent out the facility the proceeds go to the building fund, my pay comes out of the Society fund. David James made a motion as such, and Carlyn Morales seconded it. Passed unanimously.
- We are moving forward with the printing of New Roads and Old Rivers. I have a contact at LSU Press that will keep me posted on the progress. We have raised over the \$13,500 for the 600 books; working on shipping costs now.
- Saving a Cemetery in Lavonia from NEXTERA solar panels. Henry Watson asked that we be the fiscal agent for donations that come through for this. Carlyn Morales made a motion as such, Greg LaCour Seconded it. Passed unanimously.
- Started showing 3rd floor record room for potential renters. Will do renovations when we get a renter. AC not working in that room; Jimmy is working on it.
- Orlando is almost finished installing the sound system. It was used at the last concert.
- Will apply for the Inspire Grant for small museums as soon as it opens for 2024 through Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- David and I are looking into options to change elevator companies.
- In conversation with Mr. Skipper, he has agreed to come to Sept. meeting to donate his painting.
- Held initial meeting for 100-yr Celebration of The Julien Poydras High School. The Committee made some good decisions and planning is underway for the weekend of April 27th and 28th, providing a 2-day event for the Parish.

Events;

- August 27; Movie; The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman in the Auditorium; Events Committee
- September 17; Harvest Festival Pageant in Auditorium; sponsored by CNR
- September 17; History Harvest, by appointment only; Events Committee
- September 19; Candidate Mixer; Sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce
- September 28; Lunch and Learn; Sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce
- September 28; Art comes down in prep for new art exhibit
- October 6; Opening Reception for 3rd Pop Up Art show in Museum Rooms; sponsored by PCHS & ACPC

6. **New Business:**

- Date was set for PCHS Annual Meeting- November 16, 2023; Michelle will be looking for a speaker.
- Formation of Nominating Committee: David James will take the lead and Marsue May, and Peter Alongia will be on the committee
- David James made a motion to approve funds to cover the window panes in the auditorium at a cost of \$1150.00. motion was seconded by Peter Alongia.
- 2024 Fundraising: Planning continues for Ernest Gaines Literary Festival weekend.

7. **Old Business:**

-Jimmy Glaze continues to troubleshoot and repair aging AC units as needed. The Board voted to approve Mindy paying Jimmy \$25.00 an hour on an "on-call" basis. It was suggested that the Bylaws Committee include a provision for an Emergency Call-in meeting should situations arise where Mindy needs emergency funds for building maintenance and repair. Discussion to continue on this.

- Michelle reported that she began clean-up on the graves at the St. Ann's Raccourci cemetery following a \$300.00 donation to the PCHS for that effort.

8. **Adjournment:** There being no further business Rose O'Rear moved that the meeting be adjourned and her motion was seconded by David James.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne James, Recording Secretary