

CUERO HERITAGE MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING

12:00 – 1:30 PM, Cuero Heritage Museum

Tuesday, September 06, 2016

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Adickes. Those present were members Joe Reuss, Cynthia Lawyer, Kay Lewis, Candy Henderson, Peggy Ledbetter, Jim Stokes, Sherre Esse, Jessie Mathis, consultant Liz Heiser, and Museum Manager Amber Fitts.

Approval of the minutes: Sherre made a motion to approve the August minutes. Kay seconded and the motion passed.

Financial Report: A summary of the financial report was passed out to those present. Wayne reported we were still on our agreed-to spending schedule and still on budget. We expect to have some money left to roll over to next year. The City Council has a budget meeting tonight.

Chamber Moving: There was a discussion about the Chamber of Commerce moving to their new offices. Sherre reported that they expect to move after Turkey Fest which is October 7-9 this year. Due to this move, CHM will have additional space which will facilitate the need for more docents. At present we have two paid docents, Suzette Dillon and Jeremy Ford and one volunteer, Julie Buenger. Amber will contact the Cuero Record about doing an article featuring our present docents and their enthusiasm about working with the museums.

It was also agreed that we will close the two museums on Sundays due to lack of visitors. There was a discussion about having more signage directing visitors to CHM and PMMT, especially on Saturdays during Cuero Market Days when there is an influx of visitors in town. Amber agreed to go forward with this.

Fund Raising: Steve and Wayne have submitted a request to GVEC (Guadalupe Valley Electric Co-op) for a grant of \$15,000 to purchase a hard and software program which will enhance exhibits in both CHM and PMMT. They expect to hear back from GVEC by the end of October.

There is no report on the firetruck fundraising due to Cliff Weber being absent.

Wayne reported that he has made a list of organizations which we can ask for funding. Some of them have specific interests which they will fund, so we should tailor our requests around these.

Cuero Heritage Museum:

Genealogy Room: Wayne reported that he was contacted by the City and the Library about moving genealogy information from the Library to CHM. It was agreed that we would welcome this since it ties to our oral histories and the general theme of CHM. Peggy suggested that we could work together with the DeWitt County Historical Commission, with both organizations contributing to and using this resource. It was agreed that the present kitchen area would be the best place for this material.

World War I Centennial Exhibit: Peggy reported that she was contacted by the State Historical Commission about the DeWitt Commission having a celebration for the WWI Centennial. She suggested that we (CHM) and the Commission work together to put on this celebration and exhibit as well as an exhibit and celebration for the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, to which we agreed. There was a discussion on how to get information on WWI. Peggy said she will talk to the Record editor, Glen Rea, about getting old newspaper information. It was decided to hold the WWI exhibit on April 6, 2017. Wayne asked for \$2000 to order WWI artifacts such as uniform parts, radio broadcasts, etc. Joe made a motion to purchase the artifacts. Peggy seconded and the motion passed.

Satellite Visitor's Center: Sherre agreed that the new Chamber offices would maintain a small visitor's center in their new offices with brochures and literature about the museums as well as Cuero.

Telephones, Computers, Etc: Wayne reported that the City has agreed to purchase cell phones for specific use in the museums to which the main-line calls can be forwarded. This will benefit docents and others who cannot easily get to the main telephone when a call comes in. The cell phones will stay in the museums.

Furniture & Exhibit Cases: With the additional space we will get from the Chamber move, it was agreed that we will need to obtain more exhibit cases and furniture.

Hanson Reception: It was reported that this was one of the best attended receptions to date. It had Victoria TV and newspaper coverage which were both exceptionally well done.

Sprucing Up the Interior: Amber has left a message with Victoria Building Supply about building new front doors for the CHM lobby. (They built the ones for PMMT). There was a discussion about original paint on the columns and Sherre suggested having the floors stripped and waxed.

Monarch Butterfly Exhibit: The Exhibit is now up in the board room. Amber is trying to get in touch with Mrs. Fuchs about having a reception. It was Mrs. Fuch's 4th Grade Class who created the exhibit.

Reamer Convention: Wayne reported that the reservation of the Cuero Clubhouse (where the convention was to be held in 2017) was cancelled due to the Library needing the clubhouse for temporary quarters during the library building renovation. He is going to try to get the Catholic Church Parish Hall instead, which is convenient to downtown and the museums. The City has agreed to help with excess costs due to this change.

Alarm System Installation: Wayne reported that the alarm system has been installed and is working as expected. The system needs some adjustments due to the sensors going off without true provocation.

Future Exhibits: There was a discussion about having the artwork of Cuero native Laura Mae Marshall as a future exhibit. It was agreed that we could do this, with a biography, after the WWI exhibit.

Pharmacy & Medical Museum of Texas:

Baby Oxygenator Donation: The baby oxygenator has been received and is now on display in PMMT. It is one of two in existence and was donated by Kim Parrish from Smithville, TX. It was agreed to try to have a reception or at least a visit by her and to get an article in the newspaper about the oxygenator.

Repair and Painting Upstairs: Painting still to be done and volunteers are needed.

Iron Lung Update: Jim is still working on this exhibit slated for April of next year. It was agreed that we should continue to contact previous sources for information on obtaining an iron lung for exhibit.

Texas A&M Veterinary Exhibit: Joe reported that we may possibly get a veterinarian x-ray machine from A&M. Wayne mentioned that we need to check that there is no radiation associated with the machine.

Old Business: Joe gave kudos to Jeremy Ford for being an outstanding docent at the PMMT and praised him for all his meticulousness and extra effort on researching items.

Announcements: Jim announced and invited us to attend the 175th Anniversary of The First Presbyterian Church of Victoria which was founded by James Smith, the same person who founded the Presbyterian Church in Cuero as well as surrounding communities. The event is to be held on October 2nd.

Amber announced that we now have access to a large format printer which will give us the ability to do large color copies.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia Lawyer
Secretary