

CUERO HERITAGE MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Tuesday, May 02, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Adickes. Those present were members Cynthia Lawyer, Joe Reuss, Steve Waldrop, Jim Stokes, Jessie Mathis, Peggy Ledbetter, Tony Allen, Museum Manager Amber Fitts and consultant Liz Heiser. Also present was Mary Sheppard attending for member Joe L. Sheppard. Mr. Guy Dolan was elected as a board member at the beginning of this meeting and was also present.

Steve moved that we approve the April minutes. Tony seconded and the motion passed.

Financials: Wayne reported that we received \$415 in revenue for the month and expended \$17K, which was expected. We will be getting the quarterly revenue of our portion of the hotel-motel tax from the city next month. We have spent 47% of our budget and we are halfway through our fiscal year, which means we are on-budget for the year. We still have some donations and monies from the PMMT store which have not yet been deposited.

Docents: There was a lengthy discussion on how to attract more docents. Amber and Guy suggested that we advertise training dates. Steve mentioned that we needed to be more specific with our requests; i.e., determine exactly the kind of work we need done and target people with that skill. Peggy suggested that we prepare a form/calendar to hand out to organizations and friends and ask them to sign up on specific days. She also mentioned we could approach former docents of the Chisholm Trail Museum since that Museum stopped using docents. Jim suggested that we recruit people in pairs since it is likely that friends or family would work together if given a choice. Mary suggested targeting high school students who needed community service time on their record. It was decided that Amber and Wayne would create the form. Joe mentioned that he would be doing a program in two weeks for the Lion's Club and would like to make our seeking docents his program. At that time he could hand out the forms.

Membership Drive: Liz reported that we still needed to identify levels of memberships and benefits for each level. There will be a form ready soon for board members to use to suggest members.

WiFi: Still no WiFi in either museum. The city is still trying to resolve how museum patrons can use city WiFi without compromising the city's data.

Cuero Heritage Museum:

The World War I exhibit, now on display, will have its reception on Thursday, May 18 from 4-6 p.m. The Coca Cola reception will be the same day and it is also on display now.

Newman Video: Steve reported that he has received display items from the Newman family, including a scrapbook of Cecil's life from birth to death. Steve also reported that 52 letters have been scanned and are ready for his committee to start reading them. He asked that they have a short meeting today after the board meeting.

Genealogy Room: Wayne reported that we now have tables and chairs in the room as well as a computer, but we still lack genealogy software. Amber suggested a membership to Ancestry.com and it was decided to do research into the cost of that as well as other software. Jessie asked about how downloading information would work, but Wayne said we have no answer to that until we had a better understanding of what we want to offer.

Pharmacy & Medical Museum of Texas:

New Window Display: Docent Suzette has created a window display with artifacts from Eli Lilly Drug Company.

Iron Lung Update: Jim reported that he has drafted a letter to Warm Springs and needs either Wayne or the Mayor to sign it. Steve is continuing to call people from a list he has made. One Houston organization has an iron lung and was sounding as though it may be willing to donate or loan it, but later Steve's contact said the board of directors refused to do either. Steve mentioned he would be willing to go to Houston to meet with the board and plead our case. It was suggested to explore naming rooms after donors who made a worthy contribution and perhaps start with Eli Lilly, sending photos of our window display and asking for a donation.

Medicinal Garden: Medicinal plants are now being sought and planted. It was suggested that we contact Scooter Cheatham, a Cuero native, who has written extensively on the medicinal uses of Texas plants. Guy suggested that Wayne contact a person from Herb Cottage who also is very knowledgeable.

HVAC: Still having problems with heating and cooling, one being that a/c condensation is dripping from the 2nd floor to the 1st floor. The installation company has been out to investigate but so far hasn't resolved the problem.

Old Business: Fundraising: Wayne reported that he will be meeting next week with Steve and Mr. VanDerveer about fundraising.

New Business: Peggy reported that she was contacted (due to her role with the Historical Commission) by a Pastor Doug Richardson in regards to the grave of William H. Graham who was a Union Officer and is buried in Cuero. Pastor Richardson wants to put a marker on the grave. It was determined that long-time families of Cuero (the Hamiltons and Cusacks) are descendants of Officer Graham. Peggy also was contacted by Sandra from the Main Street organization about helping with publishing a history of Cuero for History Preservation Month.

It was announced that Coffee With the Mayor will be on May 9th from 9:30 to 10:30 at the Cuero Park Clubhouse.

The meeting was adjourned at about 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia Lawyer
Secretary