

## CUERO HERITAGE MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Tuesday, August 01, 2017

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Adickes. Those present were members Jessie Mathis, Cynthia Lawyer, Joe Reuss, Steve Waldrop, Jim Stokes, Guy Dolan, Peggy Ledbetter, Joe L. Sheppard, Sherre Esse, Cliff Weber and Museum Manager Amber Fitts.

Jim moved that the June minutes be approved. Joe R. seconded and the motion passed.

*Financials:* Wayne reported that we are 83% through our current fiscal year and 80% of our expected funds have been received. At this time we are \$8,000 in the black for both museums. However, going forward with this year, there is an expected deficit of \$36K by end-of-year. In order to make up this deficit Wayne proposed that we cut spending, which includes most capital work in which contractors aren't fulfilling their commitments, and using money from our reserve funds.

Another deficit is expected for the next FY (\$34.9K) which will be offset by the \$25K on reserve for the fire trucks and the current reserve funds.

*Visitor Info:* Amber distributed an attendance record of visitors to both museums for the 26 days they were open in July. It was recorded that we had 200 visitors from various cities, states and countries: from Texas cities: 37 cities to CHM, 154 to PMMT; states: 3 states to CHM, 4 to PMMT, countries: 3 countries to CHM, 5 to PMMT.

Amber also reported that our consultant Liz Heiser "boosted" our Facebook post about the World War I exhibit and this resulted in over 3,000 views/"likes". Facebook boosts have a fee and our budget for them is \$75.

*Texas Workforce Program:* Wayne reported that he had been in touch with the TWP and they have agreed to place two people with the museums. They are paid by TWP and can work 18 hours a week for up to 3 years. Wayne and Amber are meeting with the representatives tomorrow morning to finalize the details.

*Membership Drive:* Amber distributed some recommendations from the membership committee regarding levels and their amounts, membership benefits, and a timeline of what needs to happen and when. Members were asked to study it and come up with suggestions, additions or changes. Each member also received a sheet on which to list potential people/businesses to contact. Sherre asked about the dates a yearly membership would cover. Cliff suggested that we make our contacts at the end of a year or at the beginning of one, which benefits businesses. Guy suggested that we make a decision soon on where the actual funds would be recorded when received, i.e. the 501C3 or the museums.

### **Cuero Heritage Museum:**

*Newman Video:* Steve reported that it has been decided to hold the program at 2:00 p.m. on November 11, 2017 in the council chambers. He is very close to completion, still has some voice-overs and timing to finish up with Jim's help. Amber has received the family material and will prepare an exhibit. Steve hopes to have earlier coverage and publicity for this program than for last year's.

*Turkey Trot Room:* It was reported that Amber is still working on the new exhibit room and hopes to replicate a Turkish palace.

*Henneke Donation:* Wayne reported that Mrs. Henneke was in the midst of packing her collection of Japanese porcelain for donation to CHM. The collection has been appraised at

\$11K. Wayne expects to put it in an exhibit at the end of January and have a reception during this time.

*Firetrucks:* Wayne reported that the Mayor has asked about the status of the restoration of the 3 antique firetrucks. Retired Fire Chief Butch Tolbert is working with Wayne on this project and they determined that some of the retired volunteer firemen would do mechanical work on one of the trucks so it could be used in parades, etc. The city has promised a facility in which the 1959 and 1923 trucks can be housed and worked on.

Wayne contacted the city of McKinney, TX, who had a 1924 American LaFrance truck fully restored (we have a 1923), and the cost was \$90K. Wayne got the contact information for the restorer, which is the Texas Fire Museum in Dallas, but has not yet contacted them.

The Mayor consulted with Wayne about how to use the old Coke Building which will be restored by the city. He requested that the museum have the three large bays at the back of the building in which to display the firetrucks. The Mayor was enthused about this suggestion and will present it to the proper people.

*Guadeloupe River Project:* Amber reported that Fox 29 TV channel out of San Antonio has contacted the museum about a special they are doing on the Guadeloupe River. They would like for the museum to provide information and photos about the Flood of 1998.

*Potential Exhibits:* Before we display the Henneke porcelain exhibit, Guy has agreed to loan his many paintings of Christ for part of the Christmas exhibit.

### **Pharmacy & Medical Museum of Texas:**

*Iron Lung Update:* Steve reported that the TIRR Hermann Foundation in Houston has agreed to loan us their iron lung. Just waiting on legal documents, insurance and city council approval. Steve is meeting with the city attorney tomorrow. We still expect to ask the Rotary Club to pay for shipping.

*Bids for Upstairs Reno:* Another bid has been awarded, this time to Robert Smith. He will be updating the main hall for exhibits and readying the front two rooms for a dental office and medical lab.

*Original Cabinet:* Joe R. was contacted by Cuero resident Sharon Bauer Dewberry about donating a cabinet which originally came from Buttery Drugstore (now PMMT). It has been received, polished up and now houses a display.

**Old Business:** We did not purchase an ad in the Discovery Magazine since the city's ad mentioned both museums.

**New Business:** Peggy reminded everyone about the Historical Commission's Lives Remembered program on September 23.

The meeting was adjourned at about 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cynthia Lawyer  
Secretary