

CUERO HERITAGE MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING
12:00 – 1:30 PM, Cuero Municipal Library, 207 E. Main St.
Tuesday, April 3, 2018

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

Jesse moved to approve the March minutes. Guy seconded the motion and it passed.

Financials: The financial report from the City was through the end of March. Currently we are playing catch up with finance year to date surplus and we are on budget. Details of both museums are in report. Year to date actual looks to be 52, 000 under budget to last rest of FY.

Welcomed New Board Member: Eric Basaldua who is the branch manager of Wells Fargo of Cuero.

Need Two Additional Board Members: Amber stated that she would like to see if Dr. Mills is interested in being on the board. At one time we had a doctor on the board that could not make the meetings. Wayne ask the board to bring names of individuals they would like to see on the board. We have 16 board members and need two more, and the more members mean more input.

Texas Work Force Employees: TWC program is designed for people over 50 that has been out of workforce and offers a way through on the job training to get back into the workforce. The total allowable training time through the program is 4 years. We have a new person from TWC, Ruben Gonzales, who will provide housekeeping services. Helen will do the training. We also have 2 docents from the TWC program.

Museum Attendance for 2017: The Cuero Heritage Museum attendance report is not ready at the moment. The Pharmacy and Medical Museum of Texas attendance averages 80 - 85% out of town. We had 196 towns, 15 countries, and 31 states which totaled over 2,000 visitors for 2017.

Fund Raising Events Planning: The museum is working with the area towns in DeWitt County for joint Christmas Advertising. Guy recently spoke to Amber about having a raffle for a Polly Howerton painting. The painting is valued at 1,500 from that time period. Guy stated that he found it at a garage sale. Getting a Martha Sawyers original for raffle is too costly to consider. Joe L. stated that we should look into raffle laws to make sure we can have one legally. It was suggested that the raffle tickets have a photo of the painting on it and we can make the tickets ourselves. Wayne stated that he has a 5gallon jug of pennies that can be used for people to guess a chance of winning the whole jug. The question, do we want to do this, and how much for a guess? Guy talked to Amber in the past about having a membership dinner fundraiser, free entertainment, event of bringing community together and into membership which could possibly be done in the fall. The board decided to form a fundraising committee consisting of: Jesse, Eric, Guy, and Amber will help.

Museum Tours: We had a large tour group of medical students from Corpus Christi tour both museums. They loved the museums and plan to return once the upstairs is open in the Pharmacy Museum.

Cuero Heritage Museum:

Marsha Sawyers and Polly Howerton Exhibit: We placed an ad in the newspaper to find more Polly Howerton paintings, life information, and any photographs people may have of Polly to include in the exhibit. So far we have one painting on loan. Gerald asked if the hospital has any Polly Howerton paintings. For the Martha Sawyers Exhibit, we have few originals, magazine covers, books and will purchase a Life Magazine with her artwork in it. The Art League of San Antonio may have an original self-portrait that we can see about getting on loan.

World War One Presentation Update: Steve is coming along well with the program. Jim index the thesis and put it in a binder. Wayne found lots of old Cuero WWI time photos of Cuero.

Outside Lighting Maintenance: LED lighting has been installed for the night lighting of the heritage museum sign in on the front corner of the lawn. The old lights no longer worked and needed to be replaced.

Pharmacy and Medical Museum of Texas

Second Floor Renovation: The second floor renovations are coming along. The ceiling fan has been installed to push the heat down in the winter to make the temperatures nice upstairs and downstairs. Installations on the floor have been started, but will be delayed another week due to Henry Woods being ill. We will start making exhibits once the renovations have been completed.

Announcement and Reception for Iron Lung: The only day that the CEO of TIRR Memorial Herman can come down is May 10th. The board agrees that the reception should be on May 10th from 4 – 6 pm at the Pharmacy Museum. They may be bringing a large group from Houston down with them. The donations for refreshments has been taken care of by Darleen Dolan.

Donation of Cabinet for use in Laboratory Exhibit: Bruce Woolsey is donating a nice display cabinet for the Medical Lab Exhibit. He also donated a platter Victor Talking Machine Record that is stamped Victor and a Turkey Trot band cylinder record.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: Celtic music coming up on April 10th by the library, a free event. Guy stated it would be nice to have a museum group at the Harvest on Main and suggested that we reserve ASAP. The event will take place on April 30th from 6 – 9 pm. Peggy gave a Veterans Park update and stated that all instruments have been sponsored, but are still in need of a flag pole sponsor. She gave forms for the 8 x 8 pavers and explained the pavers to us. The DeWitt County Historical Museum will be having their BBQ soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amber Fitts
Museum Manager