

CUERO HERITAGE MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING

12: 00 – 1:30 P.M., Cuero Heritage Museum

Tuesday, October 06, 2015

Call to Order: Chairman Wayne Adickes called the meeting to order. Members present were Joe Reuss, Jim Stokes, Steve Waldrop, Cynthia Lawyer, Candy Henderson, Sherry Esse, Jesse Mathis, Ronii Diaz, Cliff Weber, Kay Lewis, Peggy Ledbetter, consultant Liz Heiser and Museum Manager Amber Fitts.

Minutes: The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Financial Status: Financial reports were not available but Wayne reported that we have money that rolled over into the new fiscal year which started October 1.

Hiring Docents: Suzette Dillon has been hired as a docent. One docent position remains open. With Suzette on board the Pharmacy Museum will now be open on weekends; 10-3 on Saturday and noon to 3 on Sunday. Both museums will be open during Turkeyfest weekend.

Brochures: Amber designed a very attractive brochure detailing the four museums in Cuero. It was mailed with the recent utility bill to City of Cuero utility customers. The notice for meetings with the mayor at a different Cuero museum each month will be sent with the next bill. It was suggested that we talk with the rural provider GVEC about sending a brochure with its bill also.

Fox News: Liz reported that she was abruptly informed very recently that the Cuero Booster Club and the Education Foundation have taken over hosting the premier of the Fox documentary about Cuero football. It was noted that CHM has spent money in preparation for hosting the premier and it was suggested that we insist on being reimbursed if we will no longer be in charge. Wayne has a meeting scheduled with the mayor to get her advice on what to do.

VFD: The Cuero Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate its 125th anniversary on November 7th in the downtown area from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. CHM will have an exhibit of early fire department photos inside the fire house. We will also have an area set up to accept donations for restoration of the 1922 fire truck which will be on display at the fire house. The celebration will include food and games as well as a parade of local-area fire trucks.

Cemetery Tour: Peggy Ledbetter reported that the DeWitt County Historic Commission will host a cemetery tour of Hillside Cemetery on October 24th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The "Lives Remembered" tour will include gravesites of historically significant people from Cuero's past. At each site someone will tell about or re-enact the person's life. Refreshments will be provided after the tour. Peggy asked that anyone with a golf cart consider volunteering it for use during the tour.

HVAC: Wayne reported that A/C and heating for both buildings would cost around \$300,000. The Pharmacy Museum's cost is about \$64K and could be partly funded by hotel/motel taxes from the city.

Sub-Committees: It was suggested that sub-committees be formed to work on projects between board meetings so things could get done faster. It was decided that at the next meeting we would create a list of committees needed.

Cuero Heritage Museum: *Current exhibit:* The Way We Were exhibit is now on display, consisting of 85 old photos of Cuero. *Next Exhibit:* The Snowmen exhibit will be installed for Christmas and we may host a reception. Amber suggested that we ask the public to bring in their own photos of snowmen taken during some of Cuero's rare snowfalls and perhaps make it a contest. *Nielsen 7-Up Collection:* This collection is slated for exhibit in the spring of 2016. *John Ely – War Letters:* Steve reported that all scanning is complete and work is progressing; the exhibit is slated for Memorial Day 2016. *Banking Exhibit:* Local citizen Bill Blackwell is working on this exhibit *Coca Cola Building:* The old Coca Cola building will be the entrance to the new city library and we will have space for an exhibit of Coke artifacts.

Pharmacy Museum: *Downstairs lighting:* Eighty-four new lights have been installed and the work is complete. All fluorescent lighting has been removed. Kudos given to the docents and Amber for their work moving and resetting the exhibits during the light installation! *Fixtures on loan:* Joe reported that two large fixtures will be arriving from Kuntiz Pharmacy to be temporarily displayed at PMMT. *General:* Volunteer labor is needed to remove a large number of shelves from the upstairs. There are several pieces of dental equipment to be restored as well as an antique coal stove and a three-wheel wheelchair. On Friday we will be receiving an antique brass cash register on loan from Joe's great-nephew.

Bids: Still waiting on bids for reproducing the front and back doors and building the herb garden. **Iron Lung:** No report.
Veterinary Exhibit: Joe reported that Texas A&M University is preparing this exhibit to send for display.

Fundraising: A proposal has been sent to Devon Oil for \$18K to fund the oral histories. Wayne is writing a proposal to Conoco for funding of a hydraulic fracturing exhibit.

Adjourn: It was motioned, seconded and passed that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Lawyer, CHM Recording Secretary