

CUERO HERITAGE MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Tuesday, December 01, 2015

Call to Order: Chairman Wayne Adickes called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. Members present were Joe Reuss, Jim Stokes, Steve Waldrop, Donald Albrecht, Cliff Weber, Jessie Mathis, Peggy Ledbetter, Cynthia Lawyer, and Museum Manager Amber Fitts.

Approval of the minutes: The minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Financial Reports were not available but Wayne reported that we are still doing well financially.

Docents: It is with regret that we will have to say good-bye to Docent Josie Adams who is being reassigned by Texas Workforce. We now have two half-time docents (S. Dillon and K. Gast) and two volunteers. It was agreed upon that we need more volunteers and possibly another hire and how to accomplish this was discussed at length. There is a possibility that Josie may volunteer in her spare time.

HVAC: Wayne reported that the city council approved our request to solicit bids for heating and cooling both buildings not to exceed \$270,000. The city has a surplus from hotel/motel taxes and some of this money will possibly be used to help with the HVAC cost. We are hopeful that this project will be complete by the end of next year.

Holiday Hours: Volunteers are needed on Thursday nights, Dec. 3, 10, 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. during the Shop 'Til Eight promotion. Volunteers are also needed for Dec 11 and 12 from 5 to 9 p.m. for the Christmas Downtown promotion. The museums will be open on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve until 3:00 p.m.

VFD 125th Anniversary Report: Even though it was cold and rainy, there was a good turnout for the celebration which was moved indoors. The old photos were well received and we collected about \$140 toward the renovation of the LaFrance firetruck.

Snowmen: The Snowman exhibit is up. We will host a reception for the collection's owner, Debbie Comiskey, on December 10th from 4 to 6 p.m. So far we have received 2 photos to be entered in the snowman photo contest.

Nielsen Bottle Collection: Wayne is beginning to assemble this exhibit.

John Ellzey Letters: Steve mentioned that he was hoping to have a woman read the mother's letters and another man besides himself to read the son's letters, as Steve will be the MC. Amber suggested Mayor Meyers for the reading. We need to decide an exact day for the presentation; the Thursday before Memorial Day was suggested by Cliff. This decision will be made next month.

Cuero Banking Exhibit: This exhibit is on hold until Mr. Blackwell is able to continue.

Motion detector switches for lighting: Amber is getting quotes for this. However, the actual need for them came under discussion and it is still under review. Timers instead of motion sensors was suggested and this is being pursued as well.

Historic Murals on Reuss Bldg: The mayor made it known to Wayne that she was totally in favor of having these murals painted. Joe moved that we work toward having the murals done during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Steve seconded and the motion carried. The mayor suggested approaching the CDC for a grant.

Oral History: Jessie is gathering people for oral histories. He and Steve will work together to do interviews and filming; some to take place before Christmas.

Fixtures from Texas Pharmaceutical Association: The counter and fixtures have been received and are in place.

Removing shelves, etc. in PMMT: January 9, 2016 was selected as a tentative date to begin removing shelves, wall, etc. at PMMT. Volunteers are encouraged to attend.

PMMT Doors: Cliff suggested checking with a place in Yoakum, which has a large collection of old doors and other things, to see if any doors there would work for us. He also mentioned a woodworker by the name of Durwood Brandstetter who may be able to give a quote.

Herb garden planters: They have been built and delivered. They still need to be screened in the bottom and soil added. We are trying to see if Ful-O-Pep can donate the soil to fill the planters.

Iron Lung Update: Jim and Joe travelled to Warm Springs in Luling and obtained contact information for getting the iron lung on loan for PMMT. It was determined that the city and CHM should write a letter requesting the loan. Someone at Warm Springs also offered to give/loan several prosthetics. Jim suggested contacting small pharmacies around the area to loan exhibits for short periods of time.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned.