

Fairhope Museum of History

Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2016

Attendees: John Taratsas, Catherine King, Abby Dunlap, Curt Cochran, Donnie Barrett and Jim Bates. The quarterly meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Minutes from the January 2016 board meeting were distributed and approved.

Director Barrett presented the museum accession list covering the first quarter of 2016. All items were approved for acceptance.

Jim Bates presented the Q1 2016 museum visitor totals as follows:

- January - 1,674, February - 1,808, March - 4,202
- Total Q1 – 7,684. (Average 2,561/month and 118/day)

Director report:

- The IT department continues the programming on our Touch Screen. We have added several new touch points and requested an improved time line image to enhance the visitor's experience. We are optimistic that these updates will be added soon.
- The People's Railroad project is nearly complete. ADA compliance regulations dictate wheelchair access so until we complete that final detail of the project, we have secured the entrances to the exhibit's interior space.
- The 2016 Satsuma Blossom Festival is set for April 16th. We anticipate record attendance this year with numerous music acts, a bicycle parade and many new attractions.
- John Taratsas is going to attempt to secure an old iron mailbox from the Fairhope Post Office for a loan to the museum for a future exhibit.
- The April Walking Tours got off to an excellent start this year with 76 attendees. Director Barrett commented that although the number was good, it was difficult to speak effectively to such a large outside audience. Fairhope City Sketches advertised a 10:30 am start but the city's website advertised a 10:00 am start so the tour lasted an additional 30 minutes as we assisted the later arrivals with a catch-up plan.
- Jim Bates received a quote from Nall Printing to reprint the museum brochures at the same cost from 2013. Upon approval from Sherry Sullivan, we will be making a few necessary changes to more accurately reflect the activities here at the museum.
- Director Barrett announced plans for the next major exhibit which will showcase many of the town founders and other influential individuals who helped shape our unique community. Construction on the exhibit will begin in May with completion in early June. The estimated budget for the project is \$3500.00.
- The Roundup Day movie is nearing completion. The film producers have requested an initial viewing by museum staff and selected volunteers before the premiere and ultimate release to the general public. They also requested that the premiere be held on a weekend evening to generate greater excitement for this landmark project.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Jb