

**Fairhope Museum of History**  
**Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes**

**July 12, 2017**

**Attending:** Jack Burrell, Paul Czajka, Abby Dunlap, Catherine King, John Taratsas and Director Donnie Barrett. The quarterly meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. Minutes from the March Board meeting were distributed and approved (Czajka/Dunlap).

Donnie Barrett presented the **2017 Museum Attendance** report showing a total of 12,476 visitors in the first six months of the year. He commented that, at this rate, we were on track to have approximately 24,000 guests this year and he is pleased.

The **Accessions** list of six items donated to the Museum was presented and all were approved for acceptance (King/Dunlap). The public continues to donate interesting items for the Museum Archives.

**Director's Report:**

- Director Barrett reported that the Museum has taken over supervision of the **Welcome Center** during the last quarter, resulting in much better staffing. Every shift is manned by at least one volunteer (with the exception of the hard-to-fill Saturday afternoon slot). These volunteers are visited by Museum staff during their shifts and thanked for their contributions and are generally more invested and enthusiastic about their important role in greeting visitors to the City and providing information. In addition to the improvement in staffing, Director Barrett reported on the recently installed 'Now and Then' pictorial exhibit and the beautiful mural-sized picture of the pier area hung behind the desk which have freshened the Welcome Center reception area.
- The Museum sells Fairhope Tea in the Gift Shop through the Friends organization, and tea sales lead all other items and provide extra funds for Museum projects. Two **Tea Picking** events have been held recently, followed by processing the tea. Director Barrett and his wife host the pickers at their farm; it is hot and hard work, but for a good cause.
- The annual **Bus Tours of historic Fairhope** homes and businesses will be July 15<sup>th</sup>, with four tours offered.
- The annual **Elderberry Festival** will be August 12<sup>th</sup> at the Museum. This regularly brings in many guests (over 300 last year) to learn about the Elderberry plant and enjoy the festivities.
- The Museum is participating in **Alabama200**, a three-year celebration (2017-2019) of Alabama's path to statehood. The next event at the Museum will be August 18<sup>th</sup> to learn about this area's history as part of the Republic of West Florida. There will be activities and events throughout the day.
- The annual **Round-Up Day** will be held November 11<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 123<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the founding of Fairhope. The events will follow the annual Veterans' Day Parade, and will include an original play with actors in period dress portraying Fairhope's pioneers, food and other activities.

- Director Barrett reminded the Board that Jim Bates has been promoted to a position within the COF at the Nix Center. Jim provided invaluable service to the Museum over the past four years, and he will be sorely missed for his commitment to the Museum, his business and organizational acumen and his affable personality. Until a replacement is hired, the director reminded the Board that he is the sole staff member, and hopes a new assistant will be hired soon.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.