

Fairhope Museum of History - City Board Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2018

In Attendance:

Abby Dunlap – Board Member Catherine King – Board Member Paul Czajka – Board Member
John Taratsas – Board Member Donnie Barrett, Director – Fairhope Museum of History
Darby Wiik, Museum Assistant – Fairhope Museum of History

4:05 pm

Accession list of items received thus far in 2018 was circulated around the table – moved and second - items were accepted into the permanent collection

Attendance Figures

- April = 1,720 / May = 1,565 / June = 1,556
- Total for 2018 so far = 11,637
- Visitation is up in terms of daily visitors looking for educational information (due to summer break / families traveling) as opposed to months with holiday/Mardi Gras parades = “crowd control” vs. interpretation/docent-heavy work

Changes / New

- Gift shop and tea program have been taken over by the Friends
- College level intern completed his program (we still have a high school student who comes once a week for ~2 hours)
- Electric dept. is planning to change all lightbulbs over to more efficient LED ones – not happened yet, but in the works
- Moving away from assisting with Welcome Center operations to focus on Museum needs
- In the process of applying for AAM membership – helpful resources – Sherry-Lea helping budget-wise
- City approved \$40 outdoor sign for Wattle and Daub house
- Sherry-Lea Bloodworth Botoy facilitating loan of 1906-1907 guest registry -Grand Hotel – hotel has a historic preservation staff position now
- Updates to Af-Am history case and nearby “Builders of Fairhope”
- Couriers have moved

Other

- HR told Donnie they will be posting the director position soon
- Bus tours coming up this Saturday – almost sold out, expected to sell out in the 1-2 days.
- Friends’ Nancy Lewis historic marker - lost in state system? Donnie will follow-up on this.
- Elderberry Fest coming up next month – August 11
- Discussion with IT re getting refurbished laptop(s) from the police department for use by staff/volunteers in areas other than staff workstations –in the works

John Taratsas said there has been a project related to photographing war veterans in our area. He said he was involved in the project and it was mentioned on the news last night. He said the museum may want be on the lookout for this project to come through the doors.

Catherine King asked if Donnie was entirely uninvolved with the Welcome Center at this point. He said he is no longer involved. Darby said she is still involved in that when no one is at the welcome center to answer the phone, it rolls over to the museum and she handles the calls.

Minutes from the April 4, 2018 meeting were sent by Darby after the meeting to those in attendance and were approved via email by Paul, Catherine and Abby on July 11 and 12, 2018.