

Fairhope Museum of History
Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes



July 2, 2014

Attendees: Sherry Sullivan, Connie Stejskal, Lucille Fracas, John Taratsas and Jim Bates. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Minutes from the April 2014 board meeting were distributed and approved.

Museum Assistant Jim Bates led the meeting in the absence of Director Barrett.

Jim Bates presented the museum accession list covering the second quarter of 2014. All items were approved for acceptance.

Attendance for the second quarter as follows: April – 2,094, May – 1,721, June – 1,450, Total – 5,265.

Jim Bates reported that the Civil War exhibit is getting very favorable reviews. John Taratsas remarked that it was even better than the WWII exhibit of two years ago. In conjunction with this exhibit will be several presentations throughout the year specific to the Civil War's impact on Mobile Bay, Eastern Shore and Baldwin County.

The Satsuma Blossom Festival held on April 26 was a tremendous success with well over 300 visitors attending. Docent Emogene DeMaagd did a wonderful job leading that event. It is very likely that this will become an annual event here at the museum.

The Bus Tours are scheduled for July 26. This year there will be two tours covering east Fairhope and two tours covering west Fairhope. Tickets for the event will go on sale July 5 and we again anticipate selling out in less than one week.

The Touch Screen project being handled by the city's IT department is progressing on schedule. The initial units will be placed on the mezzanine adjacent to the north and south walls to help educate visitors on the Stewart the Picture Man photographs and the Dean Mosher painting. We will be able to adapt these units to other exhibits as needed.

We have been very fortunate to bring in several new docents in the past few months. Each one exhibits great enthusiasm and a thirst for local history. Mary Ann Maradik continues doing a fantastic job keeping our docents scheduled and providing extra docents when the need arises.

The Gift Shop is now open for business in its new location beneath the rear stairwell. A re-fabricated door and new shelving have given the gift shop much improved exposure which has already resulted in steadier sales.

Sherry Sullivan recommended that we update the Museum Board list ensuring that we have current contact information. She also recommended that a replacement for Pete Bremer be named in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.