

Fairhope Museum of History
Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2015

Attendees: Connie Stejskal, John Taratsas, Catherine King, Curt Cochran, Donnie Barrett and Jim Bates. The quarterly meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Minutes from the October 2014 board meeting were distributed and approved.

Director Barrett presented the museum accession list covering the fourth quarter of 2014. All items were approved for acceptance.

The museum received an outstanding condition report following a safety inspection conducted by Safety Plus through the City of Fairhope. Only two minor discrepancies were noted and will be corrected immediately.

Director Barrett reported that attendance for 2014 was down 17% from 2013 citing the need for new, fresh attractions to secure better attendance numbers. Attendance for the fourth quarter as follows: October - 1,198, November - 1,198, December - 1,540, Total Q4 - 3,936. Total for 2014 -20,651.

Catherine King recommended that the museum develop plans to contact the snowbird community through the Gulf Shores Chamber and other venues frequented by this important tourist group.

The People's RR project remains a focus but appropriate wheels have been difficult to locate. Funds for the project still remain at FSTC.

The Round-Up Day celebration was held at the Fairhope Colony Cemetery on November 15. Costumed actors portrayed many of the founders of Fairhope. The play received glowing reviews but attendance was well below expectation. We have been approached by a production company to perhaps filming a movie next year at no charge to us. They would in turn have the rights to sell copies of the film.

Mardi gras is just around the corner and the decorating will begin soon. We will not however have a Mardi gras party this year due to the low attendance last year.

As the Civil War exhibit draws to a close, some of our Tea for Two's in March & April will discuss the final battles of the Civil War.

The next major exhibit here at the museum will be about the Bay Boat era where we hope to have most of the bay boat models on display along with photographs and artifacts from that time period. We have made a formal request to FSTC to allow us access to the models for display here.

The pathway between the museum and the Welcome Center has been repaired. It had become rather treacherous due to erosion.

Catherine King recommended that we requisition a nice Christmas tree for 2015 to display in the "Mayor's Office" area for the next holiday season. All were in favor of the idea.

To our disappointment, the touch-screens have been removed from this year's budget.

In addition to touch-screens, we are also in need of a color copier for the larger projects that we do throughout the year. It has been discussed that we may ask the Friends of the Museum organization to fund the copier.

We have received an application for appointment to the Museum Board from long-time volunteer, docent, and photographer, Curt Cochran. This will be forwarded to the City Clerk immediately.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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