

Lawton Heritage Association
Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 10, 2021 – 5:15 p.m.
Historic Mattie Beal Home, 1008 SE 5th St., Lawton, OK 73501

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. 5:15 p.m.

Present: President Sharon Stephen, Vice President Janie Brown, Treasurer Mary Jane Jones, Secretary Jim Whiteley, and board members, Michael Cornish, Elizabeth James, Dee McAllister, Sylvia Moore, Yuri Schendel, Craig Williams, Sherene Williams

Absent: Abby DeBaca (excused), Melva Mullins (excused), Mary Owensby (excused)

Also present:

2. President's Report – Stephen

Yuri Schendel has checked the house after recent rains and has reported no leaks. She was also present at the house when Geary Heilman worked on the air conditioner and Rid-A-Weed came. A woman from Rid-A-Weed came personally to inspect the lawn after Schendel reported there were weeds. She saw some broadleaf weeds and said they will respray at no cost. They are waiting for dryer weather before they can spray. Stephen thanked Schendel for the great job she did on the most recent newsletter. The photographs of the roofers working on the roof and the before and after of the living room mantle helped show the work that has been done.

Stephen announced that due to work and family obligations Mike Jones has resigned from the board. His wife is teaching and working on two master's degrees. His daughter will be attending the University of Oklahoma next year and his son is active in sports. He is always welcome back when he has time.

Sandi Colby has moved to Guthrie to attend Graduate School. Colby has done a wonderful job, not only as Docent Coordinator but organizing events and working with people renting the house. An event on the Titanic and one on death and mourning were both successful fundraising events for LHA. Stephen predicted Sandi will return to Lawton as Dr. Colby and teach at Cameron University.

Stephen thanked Whiteley and Schendel for help with the agenda while she was without internet service. Stephen complimented the work Craig Williams' crew did taking care of the lawn while Williams was in the hospital. They planted a chinkapin oak tree in the front yard. The tree was purchased by Mike Cornish. Stephen thanked Mike Cornish for getting the fence painted.

Schendel and DeBaca have invited everyone to a rose dead-heading party at 10:00 a.m. on June 15th. Just bring gloves and clippers. Schendel and DeBaca weeded the flower beds and Stephen and Mary Jane Jones pulled weeds one day when they were serving as docents. Schendel and DeBaca collected \$103 on one of the days they were docents.

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A photograph of the house was used to illustrate an article in The Lawton Constitution on June 6th. Allison Offield is working on getting Lawton on a list of film-friendly communities in Oklahoma. The Mattie Beal Home was used as an example of good shooting locations in Lawton. A discussion followed about the pros and cons of allowing filming at the house.

3. Treasurer's Report – Discuss and take appropriate action for approval /submitting for audit. No action. The Board will vote at the July meeting.

Jones reported in April, there were 56 tours (\$166.00), \$12.00 in donations, and \$36.00 in Gift Shop sales for a total of \$214.00.

In May there were 42 tours (\$142.00), \$13.00 in donations, and \$95.00 in Gift Shop sales for a total of \$250.00. Kathy from Ameriprise has donated a key box for the house. It holds 48 keys. It will be installed in the closet in the maid's room.

4. Minutes – Discuss and take appropriate action on May 13, 2021 meeting. No action. The Board will vote at the July meeting.
5. Old Business – Discuss and take appropriate action.
6. New Business – Discuss and take appropriate action.
7. Annual Business for fiscal year 2021-2022
 - a. Board Development Committee
Election of new Board of Director's candidates.
Jennifer Dunham
Motion to approve: Janie Brown. Second: Sharon Stephen. Carried.
John Kennedy
Motion to approve: Janie Brown. Second: Sharon Stephen. Carried.
 - b. Reappoint Board members whose terms are expiring.
 - 1st 3-year term: Dee McAllister
Mary Owensby
Jim Whiteley
Craig Williams
 - 3rd 3-year term: Mike Cornish
Abby DeBaca
Melva Mullins
Yuri Schendel
Sherene Williams

Due to previous commitments Sherene Williams is unable to serve an additional term.

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Motion to approved, accept Sherene Williams per her request: Sharon Stephen.
Second: Sylvia Moore. Carried.

Following a discussion of LHA rules regarding General Meetings, it was decided to invite LHA members next year via the newsletter.

8. Committee Reports/Comments

a. Docent Coordinator

James reported there will be a docent recruitment event on Wednesday, June 23 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. It was decided to extend the event to the evening to give people who work during the day an opportunity to attend. Volunteers are needed to give tours and discuss the docent program with guests during the event. There will be two shifts, 3 to 5 and 5 to 7. It was agreed by the Board to spend up to \$50.00 on light refreshments.

Stephen announced that Jennifer Dunham has agreed to be the new Docent Coordinator.

b. Acquisitions

Report by Schendel. Minnittee Page donated clothes (skirts, blouse, and tie) she had used to give tours of the home. They are in Mattie's closet and available to be used. Page also donated a number of hand towels The committee is accepting donations for a garage sale in the fall.

c. Board Development

d. Finance

e. Grounds

f. House.

Schendel reported that Geary Heilman did not charge us to repair the air conditioner. The cost would have been \$261.25. The Board agreed to give Mr. Heilman and his wife an Honorary Lifetime Membership.

g. Events.

Women of the Titanic event will take place at 5 p.m. on July 10. The last entry will be at 7. There are five confirmed, and one possible, presenters. The subjects will include Immigrant women's issues, Violet Jessop, musicians' wives and families, Margaret Brown, and how the tragedy was part of the suffrage debate. Set up will begin after the house closes for regular tours and cleanup will begin as the last guests leave the event. We still need volunteers to take entrance fees and sell gift

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shop items, greet guests and get them started, and take videos and photographs of the presentations. The admission will be \$10.00.

h. IT

Stephen reported that Sylvia Moore is the Chair of the IT Committee following the resignation of Mike Jones. Moore has the LHA cell phone.

i. Marketing

j. Membership

There was one new member. Renewals were sent to board members whose memberships expire in June.

k. Preservation

l. Gift Shop

McAllister reported the inventory would be done by the end of the month.

5. Audience Participation

6. Adjournment. 5:44 p.m.