

Lawton Heritage Association
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 8, 2021 – 5:15 P.M.
Historic Mattie Beal Home, 1008 SE 5th St., Lawton, OK

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. Time: 5:17 p.m.

Present: Sharon Stephen, Janie Brown, Mary Jane Jones, Jim Whiteley, Jennifer Dunham, Elizabeth James, John Kennedy, Dee McAllister, Sylvia Moore, Mary Owensby, Yuri Schendel. **Not present:** Abby DeBaca (excused), Michael Cornish, Melva Mullins (excused), Craig Williams

2. President's Report – Stephen

Stephen introduced two new board members, Jennifer Dunham and John Kennedy. Dunham is currently a docent and is our new Docent Coordinator. Stephen thanked Dunham for the wonderful job she did planning our docent recruitment and docent get acquainted tea events. Stephen noted Kennedy is a long-time Lawton resident, knows everyone in town, and will be a great asset to our board.

She complimented William's crew for the work they have done on the yard and thanked everyone who has watered the trees and bushes on the grounds and helped deadhead the roses. There is still work to be done on the roses.

On Tuesday, Stephen and Schendel were interviewed by Gary Redden for a video that will be on YouTube as part of Lawton's birthday celebration. Stephen told Mattie's story. The two men who made the video were very kind, they filmed inside and outside the house. Stephen hopes it will encourage people to visit.

Stephen thanked James for being the docent for a birthday party held at the house in June. The party was for the daughter of one of our prospective docents. Jones has offered her free rental for a baby shower at the house on July 10. The shower is for Stephen's great-grandson who arrives in September.

Jones and Rivas have been busy getting the word out for the Titanic event on July 10. Rivas designed a beautiful flyer for the event. He has appeared on KSWO and KLAU to promote the event. Jones contacted newspaper about the event. The Lawton Constitution interviewed Sandi Colby about the event and ran a wonderful article.

Wendy Tatroult contacted Todd Hunter, a plumbing instructor at the Great Plains Vo-Tech about our leaking faucet. He said it was an easy fix and did not want to be paid for the repair. He said he might like to have a family birthday party at the house. Tatroult suggested we let him use the house at no charge. He said that he would be available to help with plumbing problems at the house. Tatroult has provided information on operating the air conditioner.

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Stephen thanked Moore for the great job she has done handling numerous phone calls and relaying the information to the appropriate person that can answer the question. Moore and Brown are doing a tour on July 15 for residents of McMahon-Tomlinson Nursing Home.

Jones and Stephen have been contacted by two former educators who are interested in being docents. They saw an article in the paper about our need for volunteers. Jones and Stephen will work with them.

Stephen thanked, Moore, James, Schendel, McAllister, DeBaca, and Jones for the extra volunteer work they have done at the house this month and Cornish for the beautiful fence.

Stephen had to leave, Brown continued the meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report – Discuss and take appropriate action for approval /submitting for audit.

We received a \$100 donation from a couple from Rockwall, Texas that toured the house. They were impressed with the grounds and docents. They did not want a membership for their donation and will likely come back to visit in a couple of years. Stephen and Jones were docents on the day of their visit.

Motion by Moore to accept the May Treasure's report. Second by James. Motion carried.

Motion by Schendel to accept the June Treasure's report. Second by James. Motion carried.

4. Minutes – Discuss and take appropriate action on June

Motion to accept May Minutes by Jones. Second by Schendel. Motion carried.

Motion to accept June Minutes by McAllister. Second by Dunham. Motion carried.

5. Old Business

6. New Business Discuss and take appropriate action

a. Permission to order new Mattie Beal cards – Schendel

We are low on LHA blank note cards. The card features a painting of the house by Hodd Whicker. There are two versions, one with a car in front of the house and one without. We sell the cards for a dollar each. We have also sold them in packs of 5 cards for five dollars and use them for thank you notes. Schendel got a quote from Karen at the UPS store to reprint the cards. 250 cards, with envelopes, \$112.00. 500 cards for \$208.00. 1000 cards \$333.00. There was also a discussion also having a blank Christmas card printed at some time.

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Motion to have Moore check with Karen at UPS and see if it is possible to split an order of 500/1000 between the two cards, 250/500 each with envelopes. Motion by Schendel. Second by Owensby. Motion carried.

b. Termination of Web site manager John Hutchinson

It was reported that the website has not been updated since the announcement of our April 9th re-opening. Jones has notified Mr. Hutchinson via email and a letter included with his payment that the contact form on the website is not directing to our email. Owensby reported that he says no one had contacted him since before our re-opening. Schendel and Elizabeth have sent multiple emails and left voicemails with no response from Hutchinson. We do not have a contract with him. The only agreement was verbal with Mike Jones who has since left the board.

Motion to table until next month. Moore will contact Hutchinson to meet with IT Committee. Payment to Hutchinson will be withheld for now. Motion by James. Second by Dunham. Motion carried.

c. Free Rental of the house to people who have done work at the house at no charge

Suggestion from Wendy Tatroult honorary membership to people who have done work at the house. Todd Hunter, plumbing; Lance Butemeyer, windows, doors, and fence repair; Buddy Green who has fixed our roof for free. Schendel also suggested Tatroult for all the assistance she has given over the years. Mike Cornish spends his own money fixing things for us.

Motion individual lifetime membership and one free rental per year by Moore.

Hunter, Butemeyer, Green, Tatroult. Cornish, rental.

Motion by McAllister Second Moore. Motion carried.

7. Committee/Coordinator Reports – Discuss and take appropriate action

a. Docent Program/Docent Coordinator – Dunham

Dunham contacted three potential docents, 1 replied. Coordinated with docents for upcoming events; docent appreciation get-together, Lawton birthday open house, Women of the Titanic, and to fill open dates for regular tours. Worked with Moore to get new docent Ashley Brierton a security code. Prepared name tags and a fun test for the docent appreciation event. Due to health issues, docent Roberta Hooper is no longer able to volunteer. We now have 15 docents.

b. Acquisitions – DeBaca

Four or five photos from the Lawton lottery have been donated by the Chamber of Commerce.

c. Board Development – Brown

The committee is working on board notebooks.

d. Finance – Jones

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Jones has a meeting with Lacey Barger from Barnes, Welsh, and Perry to review our account and see if she needs any additional information

e. Events – Jones

The Titanic event will be by Saturday, July 10, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be an open house for Lawton's birthday on Saturday, August 8. It will be from 1 to 4. This is part of the City's celebration and we have been asked if we could stay open until 4. There will be a tea for Mattie's birthday September 11th or 18th.

f. House Maintenance – Cornish

Leaking sink has been fixed.

g. Grounds Maintenance – Schendel

Roses have been deadheaded. Rid-A-Weed has resprayed for free. Broadleaf weeds have been removed. There is still nutgrass which should die back after July. Schendel extended an open invitation to anyone who would like to help deadhead the roses.

h. IT Committee – Moore

Contacted Sooner Security for new docent.

i. Marketing – Jones

Articles about the Titanic event were sent to The Lawton Constitution (Sunday), The County Times (Thursday), and Southwest Ledger (Thursday). Albert Rivas was on KSWO Wednesday evening, June 7, and KLAJ on Thursday, June 8. He is waiting on Magic 95 to confirm a time.

j. Membership – Whiteley

No report.

k. Preservation – Whiteley

No report.

l. Gift Shop – McCallister

Inventory is complete. Sales were down but are picking up. Jones will give McCallister a monthly summary of what has been sold in the gift shop.

8. Comments/Audience Participation.

Kennedy asked if there was an inventory of the house. Whiteley stated that there is a room-by-room inventory with photos.

9. Adjournment

Time: 6:22 p.m.