

Lawton Heritage Association
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 14, 2022 – 5:15 P.M.
Historic Mattie Beal Home, 1008 SE 5th St., Lawton, OK

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Called to order: 5:17 p.m.

Present: Janie Brown, Sylvia Moore, Mary Jane Jones, Jim Whiteley, Abby DeBaca, Michael Cornish, Elizabeth James, John Kennedy, Yuri Schendel

Not Present: Sharon Stephen (excused)

2. President's Report – Brown

Brown commented she has been a volunteer since 2012 or 2013 and commented what a wonderful place LHA is to volunteer and how much she has enjoyed it. John Kennedy arranged for David Anderson to come look at our two pianos. He was very interested in them. Sharon Stephen has information about the pianos. We will need to put that information in the minutes. Anderson said he could tune the one in the parlor but, due to cracks, the one in the ballroom can't be tuned. It is a very cool piano with places to hold candelabras and a music stand that comes down when you open it. Brown has enjoyed showing it to people who visit the house. Brown commented how thankful we are to Anderson for tuning the piano without charge. Brown thanked Kennedy for arranging for Anderson to look at the pianos. Kennedy stated that Anderson would like to do some work on the keys. There are three keys that are stiff and need work. He is also going to do some minor repairs. Cleta Davis played the piano at the recent Docent meeting.

We had a man visit about two weeks ago whose last name is Beal. He thinks he is related to Mattie. He has traced his family to Lawrence and Wichita, Kansas. He and his family enjoyed the tour and took a lot of photos. We've looked up a little genealogy to send to him. James will get his name from the guest register and see if she can find out more about him. Brown has his business card with his work email address.

The woman from the Red Cord contacted Brown to let her know about a fundraising banquet they are having at Cameron University at 6 p.m. on September 24th. She said if we had enough people for a table of eight, tickets would be \$25.00. The Red Cord has used the house for their events and thought we would be interested in attending their gala.

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

Motion to approve May Treasurer's Report: James. Second: Moore. Carried.

Motion to approve June Treasurer's Report: DeBaca. Second: Cornish. Carried.

4. Minutes – Discuss and take appropriate action on May and June meetings.

Motion to approve May Board meeting minutes: Cornish. Second: Kennedy. Carried.

Motion to approve June Board meeting minutes: DeBaca. Second: Cornish. Carried.

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5. Old Business – Discuss and take appropriate action.

No Old Business

6. New Business

James reported when she arrived in the afternoon it was 92 degrees upstairs. Brown had set the thermostat at 72 degrees in the morning. Cornish suggested setting it at 78 degrees. Wendy Tatrout had programmed the thermostats a couple of years ago, but they may have lost their programming. Members will check to see if they need to be reprogrammed.

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

a. Docent Program/ Docent coordinator

Brown reported there was a great meeting with our docents last week. Everyone had a good time; Board members got to know the docents and show them the house.

b. Acquisitions – DeBaca

Laura Fields Trust gave us \$7,100.00 to take care of some items on our house wish list, including recovering the dining room chairs, new rugs for the parlor and the two girls' bedrooms, and curtains for rooms upstairs. DeBaca picked up the photographs we've had framed by Kriss Gill. It was \$874.18 to restore and frame the photos. Gill donated the linen matting for the photos. Three years ago, we got a quote to recover the chairs in the dining room. It was around \$1,200.00. It is now \$1,600.00. Stella's Upholstery in Comanche is recovering the chairs. Two of seven chairs have already been taken to be recovered. DeBaca showed samples of the fabrics that are being used. We will also have four pillows made from the fabrics. We need to send her a check for the fabric. Once the fabric is in, the other chairs will be recovered, and it should take about two weeks for the work to be done. On October 7 the Laura Fields Trust will have their board meeting at the house. There will be no charge for them to use the house for their meeting.

c. Board Development – Moore

No report.

d. Finance – Jones

Jones has taken care of taxes for the end of the year in the amount \$12.44. Gift Shop sales for the year were \$1,210.00, income for tours was \$2,104.00. The Acquisition fund currently has \$8,720.84; \$7,134.00 from the Laura Fields Trust, yard sale \$1,584.78 this year, last year's yard sale \$727.47, and a \$45.00 donation from Melva Mullins.

e. Events – Jones

On Saturday, August 6, in honor of Lawton's birthday, admission to the house will be free. Cleta Davis will play the piano at the event and Janie Brown will sing. Both did a wonderful job performing at the recent docent event. Mattie's birthday tea party will be Saturday, September 17th. Wendy Tatrout pointed

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out that 2022 is the 10th anniversary of the publication of Lynn Musslewhite's Mattie Beal book. She suggested we do something to commemorate the event. Suggestions included having someone give a talk at Mattie's tea party, a presentation at a Board meeting, or giving Musslewhite a lifetime membership. Whiteley will check to see what membership level Musslewhite currently has. Jones and Stephen went to the tea party in Duncan. The hosts of the event had 45-cup brewers to help prepare the tea. Jones recommended we get three to use at our events. They are \$70.00 apiece. A request to purchase will be presented to the Finance Committee for Board action in August.

f. House Maintenance – Cornish

Schendel reported Lem Johnson will replace the windows when Lance Butemeyer gets the glass. We are still waiting for the annunciator to be installed in the HVAC system. Once that is done, we will have completed the Fire Marshall's requirements. Our final inspection is August 1, 2022, there will be no more extensions, so we need to get it taken care of before the 1st. It appears the City of Lawton has approved our request for \$1,800.00 from the Hotel/Motel Tax. We have not yet been notified. If we have been approved, we must spend the money and then be reimbursed by the City. We had to submit a list of projects the money would be used for. Among them, paint the flagpole, outside trim, and porch railing. Schendel would like to get a shredder and a couple of locking filing cabinets. Cornish said he has some filing cabinets we can have. We also need a small microwave oven to replace the large microwave given to Goodwill. It was too large for our needs.

g. Grounds Maintenance – Schendel

Schendel reported there are two trees that need to come down. One in the front next to the fence and parking area. It is rotting and we have already lost large branches. We have also lost three or four large branches from the pecan tree. It also needs to be removed. Cornish suggested we get an opinion from Pat Sullivan. The cost to remove the trees will be presented to the Finance Committee. The vines in the flower beds continue to be a problem. DeBaca reported a timer for the sprinkler system has been donated by a friend who does irrigation systems. Once it is installed, he will check out the system. If there are problems, he doesn't think it will be very expensive to repair. It was agreed that our priority for the system should be the rose bushes and trees. It would likely be too expensive to water the entire yard.

h. IT Committee – Moore

We will put information about the Lawton Birthday and Mattie's Birthday Tea events on the website. For the first time, someone purchased something off the website. Brown reported a visitor recently wanted to make a donation on the website. We currently don't have the ability to do that.

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i. Marketing – Jones

We are out of attraction cards. The cost for 5000 cards is \$463.93, for 10,000 it is \$890.50. Needed and recommended changes will be discussed by the Marketing Committee and presented to the Finance Committee. A recommendation will be presented at the August Board meeting.

j. Membership – Whiteley

Whiteley reported July is our busiest month for membership renewals. Fifteen renewals were sent out.

k. Preservation – Whiteley

No report.

l. Gift Shop – Brown

Brown is looking at possible new items that might be appropriate for our Gift Shop.

8. Comments/Audience Participation

9. Adjournment. Time: 6:16 p.m.