

PCHS Board Meeting

February 23, 2023

Our president, Michelle Rabalais, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. She welcomed everyone and read the Mission Statement

1. **Roll Call-** Board members present included Michelle Rabalais, Greg LaCour, Rose O’Rear, Jeanne James, Marsue May, David James, Carlyn Morales, Paula Lambert, Pat Roeling, Peter Alongia, Debbie Martin, and Mindy LaCour. After the roll call, Greg LaCour moved that we rescind Fr. Pike Thomas’ Honorary Board membership designation which was voted on last meeting. As an Honorary Member, Fr. Pike would not be permitted to vote or serve on a committee and due to his interest in being an active participant on the board, Greg suggested that a prepaid regular life time membership be granted in recognition of Fr. Pikes generous contributions to PCHS through his donation of his LeDoux books to the Poydras Center. David James seconded Greg’s motion and it was unanimously approved by the board.
2. Minutes from the January meeting; A correction was made to the January minutes by Rose O’ Rear. The PCHS Savings Account balance was actually \$151,932.25. The minutes will be amended and reviewed for a vote next month.
3. **Treasurer’s report:** Rose O’Rear delivered the Treasurer’s Report stating that our PCHS Building Fund has a balance of \$29,350.38. The PCHS Society Fund has a balance of \$33,069.33. and the PCHS Savings total is \$151,958.89. Rose announced that she had investigated moving some of our Savings Account funds into a Certificate of Deposit which would provide a higher interest rate than is available in our regular Savings Account. Rose proposed moving \$100,000 from the PCHS savings account to a Certificate of Deposit. Her motion was seconded by David James and all were in favor. Rose will fill out paperwork at the bank and get appropriate signatures to make this happen.
4. **Executive Director’s Report: Mindy**
 - a. Mindy ordered and received 2 large and 1 table top retractable PCHS banners paid for by the LOT grant.
 - b. Calls were made and more sponsorships were received for the upcoming Jazz Brunch
 - c. The contractor will begin work on the museum windows and other items paid for by the LA Mainstreet grant on April 3rd after the wedding to be held on the front lawn of the museum.
 - d. Deficiencies in our sprinkler system are being addressed. WE are presently awaiting parts
 - e. Mindy participated in “Coffee and Conversation “at Southern Bistro – a collaboration among Mains Street merchants and locals.
 - f. Several PCHS board members were honored to attend the Ernest Gaines USPS Stamp Release program in Lafayette.
 - g. In the continuing effort to dispense with the records in the collection upstairs, a record store owner from Covington area came to examine the remaining albums and recommended we sell them for approximately \$2 apiece. A general garage sale on the front lawn after the Jazz Brunch is being considered.
 - h. The American Queen visits to the Museum will resume on February 28th, with approximately 25 dates in the months ahead.
 - i. Mindy wrote thank you notes for January membership renewals. An email was sent to past members asking them to please renew again.
 - j. All new sponsors for the Jazz Brunch have been updated on the website.
 - k. Mindy has been helping Michelle with data so that she can learn about the business of the PCHS.
 - l. On February 11, A Valentine’s Dinner put on at the Poydras Center prior to the play “Love Letters” was a big success, with 32 dinners and a piece of art from our pop-up show being sold. The \$428.32 proceeds from the dinner will be considered rental income.

- m. Our membership campaign continues. We currently have 56 members for a dollar amount total of \$13,425. We are \$3,000 away from last year's total.
- n. Mindy reported that our former board member Bourg Langlois has graciously offered to repair a broken pipe on the front lawn.
- o. Mindy announced that one of our upstairs tenants will be moving out and she reported that Creighton Stout will move to that larger office at a rate of \$650 per month. A smaller office will be available May 1st at a rate of \$250 a month.

5. Event's Committee Report

- a. Upcoming River Road field trip on February 25, 2023 is full with 15 guests.
- b. Jazz Brunch report: Committee is hard at work and plans are going well.
- c. A reception will be held on Sunday, March 5th from 3-5 pm at Poydras to commemorate the release of the Ernest Gaines Stamp.

6. New Business

- a. Work has begun to establish a 2022 Financial Statement along with a 2023 budget. Michelle and Rose will collaborate on both.
- b. Michelle plans to conduct a broad strategic session to analyze and determine any additional needs for the budget.
- c. Michelle discussed the results of the SWOT survey which proved very informative, and which will likely lead to positive changes moving forward. Michelle also suggested some possible future field trips including a visit to the Ernest Gaines Center at UL and a trip to the Old River Control Structure, with other suggestions welcome.

7. Old Business

- a. A By-Laws Committee was formed consisting of the following PCHS members; Pele Alongia (chair), Paula Lambert, Mindy LaCour, Debbie Martin, Greg LaCour, and Michelle Rabalais.
- b. Further discussion ensued as to how to best replace the Miss Jane Pittman Marker honoring Ernest Gaines.

8. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by David James and was seconded by Debbie Martin.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne James, Recording Secretary