

THE LAFFITE SOCIETY

Meridian Retirement Center, 2228 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77550

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 09, 2010

Board Members Present: President Ed Jamison, FVP Jack Watson, SVP Kathy Modzelewski, Acting TVP Jim Nonus, Secretary Carolyn Peterson, Treasurer Nancy Beaman, Editor Dan Cote, Publicity Director Dave Roberts, Technology Director Rob Peterson, Archivist Larry Porter, Parliamentarian Diane Olson

Board Members Absent: Coordinator of Research Pam Keyes

Advisory Board Present: R. Dale Olson, Jean Epperson, Jeff Modzelewski, Kathy Modzelewski

Advisory Board Absent: Pam Keyes, Robert Vogel, Dr. Reginald Wilson

President Ed Jamison called the meeting to order at 6:06PM. Jack Watson was called upon to introduce the speaker for this month's program.

Program Speaker – Jodie Wright Gidley

Topic- Status of the Galveston County Historical Museum

Jodie is the curator of the Galveston county Historical Museum and co-author of the book - Galveston, City on Stilts. She gave an update on the museum facility, post Ike and the space the museum currently occupies in the Shearn Moody Plaza building at 25th and the Strand. The museum provides storage for over 15,000 photos and archival materials. It also houses documentation for the historical markers in Galveston County. They have received grant funding for various projects such as the rehabilitation of books, rehousing of Mardi Gras costumes, and a collection of World War II artifacts. One interesting project is the restoration of an old tamale vendor cart that belonged to a Mr. Serrato. The museum has a large research library and houses many materials on loan such as Jim Nonus' newspapers on Laffite. They also sponsor outreach programs to schools and are creating a curriculum for the Sattori museum school. The museum is soliciting artifacts to be used for the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Hotel Galvez. The Jane Long exhibit at the Bolivar festival was produced by the museum. They also have conducted tours to local historical sites such as the World War II blimp base in Hitchcock and Camp Wallace and Fort Travis.

Jodie said that she does not know what will happen with their building, but hopes that repairs will begin soon.

Questions for the Speaker:

Is that all that is left of the blimp base (referring to the picture)? Yes, and a few buildings, one of which is now a private residence. Only the pillars remain, but the roof structure is gone.

What happened to all the debris piled up in front of the former museum building after the storm? It was picked up by waste management. No artifacts were lost, only supplies such as exhibit cases, tools, and wood for exhibit production were destroyed.

Will there be temporary exhibits such as in the Railroad Museum until the building is repaired? They have done what they can in the Court House and in schools, but there is no temporary space available at this time.

Does the Museum have any Rosenberg family artifacts other than what is already known? She is only aware of those already exhibited in public.

Was the prism from the lighthouse saved? Yes, it is still in the building in a specially built box. The museum and Coast Guard (it belongs to them) are monitoring it during repairs.

Break

The meeting resumed with Jeff Modzelewski sharing humorous stories about long-time member Stephen Broadstone who passed away last week. Jeff said that Stephen was involved in many aspects of Galveston life since he moved to the island. He also said that Stephen was a real gentleman who was known for his white jackets.

Miscellaneous

Ed Jamison welcomed new members, Todd and Sherl Schott. He then thanked Ginny Parker for the wonderful meal she provided and Ed O'Connor for tending bar. Ed Jamison took orders for flasks engraved with "The Laffite Society" and a skull and crossbones -- how piratey!

A few items regarding the Winter Banquet were discussed. Sazeracs will be offered as well as beer and wine, and setups will be available. Hard liquor will not be provided, but attendees may bring their own if they wish. The invitations were mailed on Tuesday.

Ed reported he had been interviewed by Barbara Canetti for an article about the Laffite Society in Coast Magazine which may be out in February. The latest edition ran a story that featured an article about catering and Todd Schott, and the restaurant (Chopin Mon Ami) he co-owns with his mother. Barbara is planning to attend the banquet providing her an opportunity to interview more people for her article.

Kathy Modzelewski had correction pages for the last Chronicles.

Jan Porter asked for volunteers to ring the bells for the Salvation Army at Kroger's. No specific time was announced.

Nancy Beaman, treasurer, reported that there is a total of \$1756.00 in the Society account. She said that \$300 had been spent this month publishing the Chronicles. Ed reported on his purchase of the video cameo explaining that the camera costs approximately \$400, but he put \$100 towards the purchase leaving the Society with a \$300 balance.

A question was asked about inviting more people to the Winter Banquet and Ed said that the room could accommodate up to 200 comfortably so guests would be welcomed.

Ed said he would put information about the January 08, 2011 Battle of New Orleans commemoration on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.08PM and a mini meeting of the board was held regarding the Winter Banquet. There was nothing specific to report.

Submitted by Carolyn Peterson
Corresponding/Recording Secretary