

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum  
Monday, February 7, 2022  
1:00 pm**

**Members Present:** Madlyn Bagneris, Fairleigh Jackson, Christopher Tidmore, Jay Batt, Ken Pickering, Brian King, Malcolm Hodnett, Thelma French, Julio Guichard, Wendy Lodrig, Ruth Burke, Melissa Steiner, Suzie Terrell, Ro Brown, Llyod T. Bourgeois, James Becnel, Phillip Albert

**Members Absent:** Storey Charbonnet, Florence Jumonville, Tiffany Adler, Suzanne Perlis

**LSM Staff Present:** Anna Cahill, Michael McKnight, Yvonne Mack, Julia George Moore, Greg Lambousy

**Others Present:** Jason Strada and Susan Maclay

A quorum was present.

- I. Call to order**  
Melissa Steiner called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.
- II. Adoption of the Agenda**  
Wendy Lodrig made a motion amend the agenda IV to III. Suzie Terrell seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- III. Introduction of Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser**  
LG welcomed the new members. Discussed funding, the importance of social media in promoting tourism and museums around the state.
- IV. Adoption of the Minutes from the meeting of the Board of Directors of Louisiana State Museum held on November 9, 2021.**  
Wendy Lodrig made a motion change the date on the top of the Minutes to reflect Tuesday, November 9, 2021.  
Brian King made a motion to adopt the Minutes with that change. Wendy Lodrig seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Madlyn Bagneris asked whether the meeting was being recorded. Julia George Moore provided background on the decision for recording meetings is a decision for the Board. Christopher Tidmore made a motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion regarding filming any meeting using Zoom. Fairleigh Jackson seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. Madlyn Bagneris, Fairleigh Jackson, Christopher Tidmore, Brian King, Malcolm Hodnett, Ken Pickering and Suzie Terrell voted yes. Wendy Lodrig, Ruth Burke and Melissa Steiner were opposed and the motion did not pass.

**V. Introductions and Oath of Office for New Board Members**

Michael McKnight asked that all of the new members introduce themselves to the Board. Julia George Moore conducted the Oath of Office for the new members attending in person: Phillip Albert, James Becnel, Ro Brown and Thelma French.

**VI. Discussion of Irby Real Estate Attorney**

Melissa Steiner opened the floor for discussion. Chad Morrow introduced himself to the Board and welcomed any questions. Suzie Terrell asked how the Board could proceed to get an opinion of the Attorney General in regards to the Irby Committee getting an attorney under contract with them rather than DCRT.

There was a brief discussion regarding the contract that Chad Morrow is currently under and requesting Attorney General opinions on the Board hiring their own attorney.

Fairleigh Jackson made a motion to open the discussion to prior Board Members involved in the hiring of the attorney be allowed to speak. Christopher Tidmore seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. Kim Abramson notified the Board that she was instructed to find an independently hired attorney but that she did not have a hand in Chad Morrow's law firm being chosen.

There was a brief discussion following public comment.

**VII. Committee Reports and Board Action Items**

**A. Irby/Finance Committee:**

**I. Commercial leases extension**

- a. Wendy Lodrig notified the Board of two commercial spaces (517 St. Ann and 507 St. Ann) that had leases coming to an end. Christopher Tidmore made a motion to approve the Committees recommendation to extend the leases for 12 months with an increase of 3% base rent and to advertise the spaces for lease within that time. Madlyn Bagneris seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. Fairleigh Jackson abstained from the vote.

**II. 808 Chartres minimum rate**

- a. Wendy Lodrig notified the Board of needing a base rent approved for this space as it is advertised. Suzie Terrell made a motion to approve the Committees recommendation of \$3,427 as the minimum rate for 808 Chartres. Madlyn Bagneris seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. Fairleigh Jackson abstained from the vote.

**III. Letters to Commercial Tenants**

- a. Wendy Lodrig notified the Board that a letter had been drafted to communicate with tenants regarding the attorney general's refusal to approve rent abatements. Suzie Terrell made a motion to approve the letter be sent by LSM staff to the commercial tenants. Ruth Burke seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Fairleigh Jackson abstained from the vote.
- b. Julia George Moore read the letter to bring new Board Members up to date.

**IV. Commercial lease – deferrals/abatements**

- a. Wendy Lodrig opened the floor for discussion regarding next steps with the Attorney General's refusal to approve abatements. Melissa Steiner asked who would be assisting the Board with their response letter to the AG's office. Julia George Moore led a brief discussion regarding the appropriate steps in seeking a response to the Attorney Generals refusal.

- b. Marianne Lewis from Jackie's read a letter from Laura Drumm of Tabasco Country Store. She requested that the Board have someone from the Attorney General's office come and meet with the tenants. She also asked the Board to go back to the Attorney General to have them change their mind.
  - c. Alex Gingrow from Little Toy Shop also notified the Board of his support in Marianne's statements.
  - d. Michael Cochran from Monty's on the Square mirrored Marianne's request to have someone from the Attorney General's office attend an upcoming meeting to meet with the tenants.
- V. Update on 521 St. Ann
- a. Wendy Lodrig notified the Board that Shawn Maddox with Photoworks is currently waiting on the estate to send an update regarding the LLC. Melissa Steiner mentioned that action will be taken at the next meeting in March and to request that the information be obtained by then.
- VI. Discussion of Irby Audit
- a. Wendy Lodrig notified the Board of Michael McKnight's formal response to the internal audit that is due today, February 7, 2022. Ken Pickering made a motion, Madlyn seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Fairleigh Jackson abstained from the vote.
- B. Collections Committee Action Items – Fairleigh Jackson gave a brief presentation for the collections committee action items.**
- I. Christopher Tidmore made a motion to adopt the Minutes from the October 20, 2021 meeting. Madlyn Bagneris seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
  - II. Proposed Acquisitions to the Permanent Collection- Christopher Tidmore made a motion to accept the Estate of Gayle Jeannine Fortier Jones portrait and defer the remaining proposed acquisitions. Suzie Terrell seconded. Ro Brown voted no and Madlyn Bagneris abstained from the vote.
  - III. Purchases – Tom Strider explained the item proposed for purchasing (a teapot). Wendy Lodrig motioned to defer this item until the next Collections meeting. Christopher Tidmore seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
  - IV. Proposed Deaccessions from the Permanent Collection- Suzie Terrell made a motion to defer these items until the next Collections meeting. Madlyn Bagneris seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
  - V. Outgoing Loans- Suzie Terrell made a motion to accept the proposed outgoing loans. Christopher Tidmore seconded and it was unanimously approved.
  - VI. Incoming Loans- No motion needed.
  - VII. Incoming Loan Extensions- No motion needed.
- C. Architectural Preservation Committee**
- I. Suzie Terrell provided an update on the renovations for Madame John's Legacy. She notified the Board that they will be doing a tour and she will let them know once a date is solidified.
- VIII. LSM Report**
- Michael McKnight provided an update on the Rex exhibit opening, LSM ticket sales and continued hurricane recovery. He also notified the Board that he continues to work on the budget.

Greg Lambousy notified the Board of current programming and events going on at the Jazz Museum. He also notified the Board that the Louisiana Museum Foundation's application for a federal economic development grant for the New Orleans Jazz Museum was approved. Rodneya Hart provided an update for Capital Park Museum and E.D. White recent exhibit openings and ongoing programs. She also notified the Board of upcoming events, programs and exhibits.

**IX. Friends/Foundation reports**

- A.** Susan Maclay provided the Board with an update from the Louisiana Museum Foundation. She also notified the Board of the success of the Rex exhibit opening and gala.
- B.** Jason Strada provided a Friends of the Cabildo update for the Board on current and upcoming programs. Rex exhibit opening; sensory friendly programming

**X. Old Business** - There was no old business.

**XI. New Business**

Suzie Terrell March 7, board orientation reminder.  
Attorney General opinion – ask Julia to prepare something for the Executive Committee/upcoming Board Meeting (March 21)  
Christopher Tidmore (March 21) add recording meetings to next agenda

**XII. Adjournment** – Christopher Tidmore motioned to adjourn the meeting. Wendy Lodrig seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm.