

ROGERS HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMMISSION MEETING

6/4/2020 4:00 PM via ZOOM

Attending: Serena Barnett, Sherry Ashley, Jerry Hiatt, John Ford, Nancy Swearingen, Kathleen Dickerson

Connecting with ZOOM met with some difficulty, so the meeting was late getting started, my apologies for being "tardy". Jerry and Kathleen had some audio issues, but we managed to get through the agenda.

Sherry Ashley reported for the Museum Foundation, as follows:

- *The AR Community Foundation balance as of 3/31/20 is \$141,765.71, with \$91,765.71 available to grant*
- * *Arvest Checking Acct: \$12,983.11*
- * *Memorials for Mark Dickerson to date: \$680.00*
- * *I plan to send an appeal letter to new and current donors in July*
- * *A special project request was received from Serena at the previous Board meeting to repaint Key Building. Serena will get estimates and report back to Board at next meeting.*

Serena gave the Museum report, and covered all departments, as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE

- *The Museum will remain closed until further notice, as per City of Rogers directive*
- *Will be interviewing next week for an Archival Intern (June 22-Aug 7) to assist the City clerk with cataloging and digitizing the City archives, whose project and position fall under the direction of the Museum*
- *Gift Shop: have reorganized displays and am purchasing new RHM merchandise*
- *Visitation*
 - *"Reflections of the Black Experience" was visited by 3 people, and will remain up through December*
 - *Online "visits have increased: Website: 801; Facebook: 28,217; Instagram: 7,342; Kid's Craft Corner: Paper Bag Apple Tree--11 children/4 adults*
- *Building Maintenance: Both the Hawkins House and Key Wing classroom north wall have experienced moisture issues, which are being addressed; Hawkins House contents have been removed and stored in preparation to repairs of HVAC system and then re-painting interior wood trim. Key Wing north wall was demolished to put in moisture barrier. The room will be re-painted and carpet installed.*

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

- *Online database is now up, with 700/50,000+ objects available to search online*
- *Continuing to move what's left of the collections at the Annex to Eversole*
- *Virtual exhibits have been reformatted for online accessibility: past exhibits: "Rally Around the Flag" and "Healthcare in Benton County"; upcoming exhibits: Influential Women in Arkansas and Personal Computers*
- *Gallery updates include*
 - *Replacing touchscreens with wall text panels to comply with COVID-19 reopening guidelines*
 - *Installing new objects and/or panels in America's Heartland (WWI), White River (Monte Ne) and Natural State (barn)*
 - *Children's Gallery: old telegraph area will become the Harris Baking Co.*

EDUCATION

- *Programs have been cancelled: History Club and Finders Keepers*
 - o *All spring school programs were cancelled (1,236 students/ 73 adults)*
 - o *All previously scheduled on-site summer programs and Rogers Explorers cancelled*
- *New virtual programs available:*
 - o *Toys Through Time*
 - o *Mano and Matate*
 - o *Kid's Craft Corner*
- *Webinar How to Build Your Own Successful Traveling Trunk Program*
- *Restructuring A-Z in the Ozarks (K-5) with new themes*
- *Annual teaching collection (TC) inventory*

Clearly, the staff has been busy during the time the Museum has been closed due to COVID-19! The hard work is appreciated, and the attention to improving and expanding the Museum's online presence is a real plus!

The Commissioners reviewed the newly acquired donations to the collection, and voted to accept all (moved by Jerry, seconded by John).

The Deaccession list was presented, and three of the five items were approved for deaccession (moved by Jerry, seconded by John), while two items are under further review. Photos will be sent to the Commissioners of the wooden wardrobe and the wooden/glass store display case, and once received, we'll take an email vote on them.

We agreed to change our meeting schedule to reflect quarterly instead of monthly meetings, reserving the right to call a special meeting at any time if a need arises.

Our next meeting will be September 3, 2020.

Submitted by Nancy Swearingen
6/5/2020