

Pickens County Museum of Art and History

Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2023

The new museum curator, Tabitha Johnson, called the meeting to order. Present were Erin Webb, the president of the foundation, Jeannie Gilstrap, the foundation's treasurer, and Ginger Hicks, the secretary of the foundation.

Tabitha informed the board that since her hire, she has been conducting an inventory of the museum's historic and artistic holdings and has plans to digitize that information. She is also pursuing the renewal of the gift shop license and the placement of all the current items in the shop under the foundation's purveyance. Some items in the gift shop may still be on consignment; Jeannie Gilstrap, from her experience in closing a business, advised that Tabitha is required to send a letter to the owner stating that s/he should come retrieve the items or they will become the museum's property. The board discussed the need for revenue from the gift shop and unanimously voted for Tabitha to renew the gift shop license and approved the expenditure for the license.

Jeannie Gilstrap reported that the museum foundation does have 501c3 status, which means we must file taxes each year. Ken Roper told her that the foundation should send the bill for the tax preparation costs to the Pickens County Council to his attention.

Changing the museum's curator means that the foundation's checking account must be altered to reflect the removal of Daniel James's name and the addition of Tabitha Johnson's name. Jeannie Gilstrap and Tabitha Johnson will accomplish this during this month.

The museum has received several donations of art over the last few months. Barbara van Gelderen has donated three of her paintings. An artist Joey "Joeywithinart" Mack has donated two paintings, one of historical figure Willie Earle and one a portrait of Tyree Nichols. He arranged his own press release for his donation which was filmed, which provided publicity for the museum.

Tabitha reported that during the month of January, the museum had 199 visitors. She also told us that the upstairs galleries will be renovated; the carpeting will be removed from the walls. One gallery should be complete by the opening of the Youth Arts Month show in early April.

In terms of the Youth Art Month exhibit, the reception dates have been set with the awards ceremony for middle and high school artists being on April 20. Karen Potter from Tri-County Technical College contacted Tabitha to tell her to expect Tri-County Tech's sponsorship check.

In terms of new business, Tabitha told the board that the State 250 Commission is offering grants to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War in SC. The first meeting of the Pickens County 250th Committee to initiate our involvement will be March 16th, 2023.

The board discussed raising the public's consciousness in terms of the museum; using the Lamar Advertising's digital boards for public service announcements about the museum and increasing the museum's social media presence and print publication presence were suggested as methods for accomplishing that. The idea of hosting a vetted First Annual Arts and Crafts Festival would also be a source of income that might engage the community.

Tabitha said that she thought it would increase traffic if the museum were open on Saturdays. The board heartily agreed. The museum will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays and open from Wednesdays through Saturdays.

The next board meeting will be on March 13, 2023 at 3:45 pm at the museum. It was requested that a copy of our minutes be sent to Jessica Varney at jessicav@co.pickens.sc.us as well as Allison Fowler.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Hicks, Secretary