Minutes of the Joseph Landry Foundation Board Meeting

April 27, 2015

Meeting was called to order 7:09 pm central standard time via Skype and mobile phones. Present were Mary Ellen Stinski, Margaret Safford Canella, Jim Safford, III, and Marjorie LeBlanc.

Margaret read the previous minutes and gave the annual treasurer’s report, there being $3,038.85 in the bank as of the last statement on 3/31/15. She also announced that she has been contacted by a potential donor who would like to set up a matching grant of $10,000.00 during 2015 to start the fund raising campaign. She has not received the check yet because the donor needs to know if the board is willing to accept the challenge. After discussion, the board decided to accept the challenge. Margaret will be sending out notices for annual dues and announce the challenge with it. Marjorie will work to get emails of her family line to Margaret. It was stated by Margaret, that we have to remember that our Landry line is only one of many and that we need to make an effort to contact as many lines as we can. Volunteers are needed to help with promoting this and new members need to be recruited.

Mary Ellen then discussed the newly launched website and encouraged those who have not seen it, to take a look and forward her any comments or suggestions. She also agreed to put a prominent text box on the opening page of the site regarding the challenge for 2015. She also stated that she has been in contact with Paul LeBlanc with Roots Web and he sent our website to 50 Landry members who belong to Roots Web.

Mary Ellen reported that the tomb door/gate has been stolen. Rob Judice had reported the theft to her and both he and Dan Safford made a diligent effort to locate it to no avail. The police and church have been notified of the loss. Rob was going to repair and refurbish it. Now, it will need to be replaced – another expense! Rob will be treating the vines on the tomb this year per the recommendations from the evaluation last year.

Next up was a report from Mary Ellen on her grant efforts. She had been pursuing possible grants from companies in the Donaldsonville area:

* 14 companies identified, information developed on 9
* Inquiries were sent to three – no response
* Applications were made to two
* Two companies have a policy that the grants can be employee initiated only. Margaret will talk to Dan about whether he knows any Landry descendants working at either of these places since he lives in Donaldsonville.
  + Praxair
  + William Olenfins
* CLR grant – Mary Ellen to call them tomorrow

Last item on the agenda was a discussion on the Sparks plan for Tomb conservation and consideration of getting alternate bids. Several suggestions for alternate approaches to the project:

1. Previous estimates with the Alfortish company were for $100,000 for tear down and replacement of the stones.

The conservation approach rather than the replacement approach has been the boards preferred method.

2. Jim suggested the tomb could be wrapped in stucco for $20,000, but Mary Ellen pointed out that it would not be within the government guidelines for a historic monument, therefore would prevent us from getting grants.

3. Rob had discussed previously with Mary Ellen that he knows two architects who are specialists in historic home restoration and might be able to do the job. He offered to see if they are interested in developing a bid.

The discussion of these options focused on Rob's suggestion. There was concern that another evaluation would involve an expensive effort after $10,000 was spent on our evaluation by Spark's. It was thought that further evaluation would divert funds from the actual restoration project. There was general agreement that if the architects are interested, they can develop a bid at no cost to the Foundation. They could given access the Spark's evaluation for information, and testing results, and they could do a site visit. We then could consider this option.

Mary Ellen agreed to put the Spark's evaluation on the web site after May 1st.

The meeting closed with more action items:

* Margaret to send letter out asking for volunteers for weed control to help Rob Judice.
* Marjorie LeBlanc to compose a letter with history and motivation. It will be sent out to the many families in the Donalsonville phone book with the name Landry. Foundation will pay postage.
* Mary Ellen to do a press release for our website with the Morning Advocate. She has a press contact in Gonzales, Danielle Doyle.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8.03 pm .

Margaret Safford Canella

Secretary/Treasurer