

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas
French Legation Museum Committee
Minutes – September 16, 2015

Members Present: Karen Thompson (Chair), Janie Babcock (Vice Chair), Sherry Causey (Secretary), Tammy Beveridge, Edie Tyler, Gayla Lawson, Sharon Wander, Rachel Bryson, Mariann Laughlin, Gaylon Hecker, Dusty Waters, Teresa Johnson, Kathy Howell, Dr. Betty Edwards (President General, via telephone)

Excused Absence: Kay Valenta (Treasurer), Judy Day, Pam Lynn, Carolyn Reed, Glenda Black,

Guests: Martha Withers (FLM Director), Sam Myers (Accountant)

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 pm and held in the DRT Headquarters Meeting Room. Pledges to the American and Texas flags were led by Karen Thompson. A quorum was declared.

Minutes: August 19, 2015, FLMC meeting minutes were previously distributed and accepted.

FLMC Chair Karen Thompson delivered name badges to FLMC members.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kay Valenta provided the following figures, via email, for the period ended August 31, 2015:

DRT FL Museum (4460)	\$ 88,652.83
DRT FL Memorial (0031)	3,603.04
DRT FL Grants/Collections (0665)	3,226.00
DRT FL Baretta Kitchen Fund (2047)	<u>13,189.23</u>
TOTAL	\$108,671.10

*The French Legation Museum is the beneficiary of a fund held at the Austin Community Foundation. The Fund Balance as of September 15, 2015, was \$11,074.40. (Principal: \$5,000).

Accountant: Sam Myers went over the financial reports and a brief discussion followed. Other Receivable of \$27,955.00 includes completed project(s), covered by grant money not yet received. Liability - Advanced payment of \$4,442.64 for jewelry will decrease, once jewelry is delivered. A \$5,000.00 donation for Fund-raising 175th was received from Rachel Bryson.

Chairman's Report: Previously submitted via email. Dr. Victoria Ramirez, Director, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, was very receptive to Karen Thompson's proposal to join with FLM in securing a visit from the French Ambassador to the United States, Araud Gerard, in 2016. No dates have been established, but it is hoped Araud Gerard might be here for the March 5th FLM 175th Anniversary Celebration. The first Saturday in March and October of 2016 and 2017 have been reserved for FLM fund-raising events. Karen is meeting with the 175th French Legation Advisory Committee on September 17, 2015. Karen and Janie Babcock visited with the Alsatian Pioneers DRT Chapter in Castroville. The chapter is very interested in collaborating with FLM. Karen will soon have her first **French Connection** newsletter completed and distributed to DRT members.

Grants Committee: Gayla Lawson submitted her report via email. Currently, Gayla Lawson, Sharon Wander and Mariann Laughlin are the only active members of the Grants Committee. New assignees are needed. Marie-Laure Reed, assistant to the French Consul General in Houston, is working with the FLM Grants Committee to secure a meeting with the French Consul General in October. November 13 and 14, 2015, Sujiro Seam, Consul General, Consulate General of France will be in Austin. On

November 13th, FLM is planning to present him with an award and flags that flew over the FLM. The Moody Foundation meets on September 22, 2015, to determine grant recipients. Money is being requested by FLM for an Interpretive Master Plan. Discussion ensued about the focus of the Master Plan. A review of the Project Agreement between DRT/FLM and History Behind the Scenes will be completed. Mariann Laughlin is searching for capacity building and sustainability grantors.

Grounds Committee: Judy Day, Temporary Grounds Committee Chairman, submitted her report via email. The FLM grounds are looking much better with watering and recent rains. The grounds are a beautiful green. Large Crepe Myrtles and Plumbago are blooming. Flower beds need weeding and mulching.

Gift Store Committee: Sharon Wander, Gift Store Committee Chairman, reported that twelve merchandise orders have been placed for the Gift Store with more than half received. Sharon is working on specialty items, printed in English and French, all for \$20.00 and under. Martha and Sharon will work on a report to determine, which items move best.

175th FLM Anniversary Committee: Rachel Bryson, 175th FLM Anniversary Committee Chairman, sent her report via email.

Texas-French Market Committee: Tammye Beveridge, Texas-French Market Committee Chairman, brought 4,000 October 3, 2015, Texas-French Market fliers for members to distribute, locally. The October event time is, now, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Ten directional signs will be placed on the grounds to assist visitors. A two feet by six feet vinyl sign will be placed along the front fence to advertise the event. The Austin High School French Club is creating games for the event. Tammye has one face painter and, possibly, two coming to the event. There are thirty vendors committed for the event. All attending vendors are required to give some token gift to visitors. FLMC members, who subscribe to Facebook, should post Texas-French Market information on her Facebook page. Beer, cold drinks, water, energy drinks, and popcorn will be available for a donation. Janie is working with Ron Oliveira on wine. Two kegs of beer will be ordered. Renting security guards will be unnecessary, as the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) members and others will be available for protection. The Moore Squadron Navy Association will have a vendor table and will assist with security. The SRT members plan to bring a cannon and fire it, during the event. Golf carts may be available to help vendors set up their tables and merchandise.

175th Anniversary History Committee: Gaylon Hecker, 175th Anniversary History Committee Chairman, reported that all references in which FLM/DRT are mentioned in "The Daughters: A Dozen Decades of DRT" have been identified with a time-line and page number. Copies of Dubois' original property purchase, deed to Father James Marie Odin, deed to Moses Baker, deed to Joseph W. Robertson and subsequent land deeds have been secured from the Travis County Clerk. Copies of newspaper articles from the 1800s and later have been secured from the Texas State Archives and other sources. Copies of census records and other documents have been pulled. Additional research will be performed, as needed. Information gathered will be the basis of a "Look Back" in the French Connection Newsletter.

Director's Report: Martha Withers distributed her Director's Report via email. She advised the FLMC that the Austin Community Foundation approved a \$10,000.00 grant for funding the FLM Comprehensive Master Interpretive Plan.

Old Business: Silent auction items are needed for the October 3, 2015, Texas-French Market fund-

raiser.

New Business: Dusty Waters obtained oak wood from the Alamo grounds. She sliced a branch cross wise to use as a plaque. A brass plate or burned etching will adorn the wood. Once complete, Dusty plans to present this souvenir to Malinda, as a thank you for her years of service at the Alamo.

The duplex on DRT's property, adjoining the FLM, is being removed. The property is being leased to the J. White Construction Company for a period of two years at \$1,200.00 per month. The property will house the construction company's portable office buildings.

The BOM will approve the DRT 175th anniversary pin, if "the" is added to the pin.

Other, possible, 175th anniversary memorabilia were discussed (cheap pins, buttons, tie tacks).

Ward Winnette, a local artist, is revising the DRT post card picture. The redesigned picture will be used on FLM's flag certificates. Ward Winnette's deadline for the revision is September 22, 2015.

Pre-paid purchases of DRT rings are taking months to receive. Sharon, Martha, Carolyn and Mariann will work on a shorter turn around, either with the current jeweler or another.

FLM welcomed first-time visiting DRT Chaplain General to FLM, last week.

Gayla Lawson made a motion to renew Sam Myers' accounting contract with FLM, at the fee currently charged. Janie Babcock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Janie Babcock will investigate FLM purchasing a sales table at the Austin History Center Angelina Eberly Luncheon in January 2016. The luncheon will be held in the Driskill Hotel.

Karen sent information about FLM with the District VIII Representative to the Lubbock Workshop. She plans to do the same for the October 3, 2015, San Angelo Workshop. Karen and another person will attend the Huntsville Workshop. As many FLMC members as possible are to attend the October 10, 2015, San Marcos Workshop. Karen plans to attend the last two Workshops of the year.

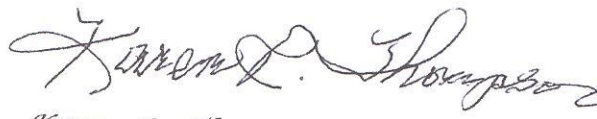
The next FLMC meeting will be October 21, 2015, 1:30 pm, at DRT Headquarters.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sherry Causey
Recording Secretary



Karen Thompson
Chairman