

PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Museum Board Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2008

PRESENT: David Shonman (Chair); Geva Arcanin; Sharon Blaziek

ABSENT: John Pearse

STAFF: Bob Snyder

GUESTS: Dan Davis, Vern Yadon, Nancy McDowell, Annette Chaplin, Esther Trosow

- I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The Agenda was corrected to show that the Minutes under consideration for approval (Item II) should be written as “May 14” and “May 28” instead of “June 14” and “June 28. The Agenda was approved as corrected.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Minutes for the May 14, 2008 Regular Meeting and the May 28, 2008 Special meeting were approved.
- III. CORRESPONDENCE:** E-mail from former Museum Director Paul Finnegan (Subject: Mark Walker Part Time Curator; Date: June 10, 2008)
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chairman Shonman voiced concerns about how the Public Comments section of Board meeting was described in the Agenda; Councilman Davis explained how public comments are handled during City Council meetings.
- V. BOARD COMMENTS:**
Chairman Shonman expressed appreciation for former Board member Larry Telles’s many years of service to the Museum. Shonman also reported that he had received comments from community members regarding how Board meetings were carried out and how many Board members were speaking publicly during Association Board meetings. He expressed confidence that all Board members desired to carry out their duties in accord with the appropriate rules, and said that he would meet with the City Attorney for guidance.

VI. MUSEUM MANAGER REPORT:

Manager Snyder reported that the City Council had approved Resolution 08-027 which accepted the new Mission and Goals statement and the new direction expressed in the Summary of the Transition Team and Strategic Planning Process, and reiterated the City's support for the Museum and support for maintaining accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

The Museum Host program organized by Tama Olver (with the help of Jim Covell) has been a success and has already trained 22-23 volunteers. Mr. Covell will be conducting trainings on June 23 and June 28, along with one volunteer enrichment/month. The Aquarium staff will end its Museum Ambassador program at the end of July.

The City has hired Mark Walker to serve as part-time Museum Curator (20 hrs/month); he will monitor the collection and conserve the birds displayed under the stairs, as well as other activities. Mr. Walker had not yet met with Curator Emeritus Vern Yadon, but they will get together soon.

The search for a new Museum Manager is continuing – the City had received several applications and a Search Committee (composed of Steve Dennis, Jim Covell, Fran Horvath, Tama Olver, and David Shonman) will soon interview candidates and make referrals to the City Manager and Deputy Manager.

Bob Snyder also recommended that a Museum Open House be organized to give the new Manager an opportunity to meet with the community.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:**a. Progress Report on Strategic Planning**

Member Arcanin reported that the Transition Team had approached the Packard Foundation about the feasibility of a 2008/2009 grant – the Foundation responded by placing the request on the agenda of their June 16/17 Board meeting. The Transition Team is also developing a strategic/business plan with goals and objectives, based on the earlier community process; it will be presented at the next Museum Board meeting. It was noted that the new Manager would lead the process and work with the Transition Team and both Boards.

b. Reaccreditation

Member Arcanin reported that she was working to submit follow-up material to the American Association of Museums (AAM), which would be due by July 1, 2008. This includes fiscal stability, personnel information, résumés and job descriptions, environmental monitoring and de-accessioning policies.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Watershed Project

Annette Chaplin (Sustainable PG) presented information about her group's interest in organizing projects that demonstrate creative ways to re-use and conserve water in Pacific Grove, including cisterns, reservoirs, demonstration gardens, etc. Ms. Chaplin emphasized that her presentation was just to introduce the idea to the Board, and hoped that Sustainable PG and the Museum could work together on this issue in the future. Board members expressed interest, and recommended that these ideas be considered in the near future, especially when the Museum's strategic plan is better defined.

b. Council Policy 200-5

Chairman Shonman reported that City Manager Colangelo had requested that the Museum Board review Council Policy 200-5 and "recommend any changes that are necessary" as a result of the City Council's actions during their June 4, 2008 meeting. Members agreed that it would be best if the Board waited until the Museum's Strategic Plan was further along and the Museum's new Manager was on board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Shonman
Chairman
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History Board