

PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Museum Board Meeting

MINUTES

August 13, 2008

PRESENT: David Shonman (Chair); Geva Arcanin; Sharon Blaziek; John Pearse;
Judy Wills

ABSENT: *none*

STAFF: *none*

GUESTS: Nancy McDowell, Vern Yadon

- I. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The Agenda was modified to reflect that the Board meeting was not a “Special” meeting; The Agenda was approved as modified.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Minutes for the July 16 meeting were approved.
- III. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Chairman Shonman received e-mail correspondence from Heritage Society member Ken Hinshaw asking Board members to support a Lighthouse restoration plan at the September 3, 2008 City Council meeting. Lighthouse Docent Coordinator Nancy McDowell mentioned that Lighthouse supporters planned to meet at the Lighthouse at 5:00 p.m., before the meeting. Several Board members and Curator Emeritus Vern Yadon suggested that the Board needed much more information before it could decide to offer its support. Yadon and other members reminded the Board that the Lighthouse is an historic structure and any work must conform to National standards. Yadon discussed the National Park Service Point Pinos Lighthouse report, as well as well one prepared by the Smithsonian’s Malcolm Watkins in the 1960s, and said that these should be taken into consideration. Shonman said that he would solicit more information from Hinshaw and relay it to the Board and to Yadon.
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Vern Yadon reminded the Board that proper procedures must be followed when specimens from the Museum’s collection are used for educational purposes or as part of “temporary” exhibits. He was particularly concerned that insects had been taken out of the collections by a non-staff person

to be used in the current temporary exhibit. He said he would talk with in-coming Manager Lori Mannel about the matter.

- V. BOARD COMMENTS:** Chairman Shonman asked new member Judy Wills if the timing of the meeting would conflict with her teaching duties; she responded that there would be no problem.

VI. MUSEUM MANAGER REPORT:

Manager Bob Snyder was not present at the meeting; some of the comments that he made at the Museum association Board meeting on August 12, 2008, are discussed in item VIIa (Museum Association) below.

VII. LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Museum Association

Member Blaziek reported that Fran Horvath had stepped down as Association President and Vice-President Pat Rutowski is now President. The Association will be mailing out Board-election letter during the next few weeks.

Former Museum Board member Larry Telles asked the Association Board for funds to help support a Panel Discussion on the impacts of Global Climate Change on the Monterey Bay area. This event will be held at Chautauqua Hall on Saturday, September 13 from 2-4:00 p.m. – it will be sponsored by Sustainable Pacific Grove as a fund-raiser for the Museum; Vern Yadon asked whether it was guaranteed that the funds will go to the Museum – Shonman said that he would check with Larry Telles and notify the Board.

The Association will host a reception for the Museum's new Manager Lori Mannel at the Museum on Saturday, August 23 at 1:00 p.m.

In Interim Manager Bob Snyder's report to the Association Board, he mention that there will be a Retreat for the Museum Staff, and members of both the Association Board and the Museum Board to be held on November 15, 2008; it will be facilitated by Steve Dennis.

It was reported that the Monarch Sanctuary was being cleaned up; member Arcanin asked whether this activity might have a detrimental effect on the Sanctuary as a Monarch habitat; Blaziek will get more information. It was also reported that trees were being planted by Beth Cort; members expressed concern that changes to the Sanctuary should be brought to the Museum Manager and the Board. Shonman will discuss with new Manager Lori Mannel.

VIII. LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Strategic Planning

Member Pearse reported that the Transition Team was now looking at how best to establish a Foundation. They have met with Jim Hekkers (Monterey Bay

Aquarium Executive Vice-President) and have discussed how to attract “trustees” who can raise funds for the Museum. Incoming Museum Manager (and Transition Team member) Lori Mannel also met with Don Hughes (MBA Vice-President of Exhibitions) who has make recommendations about the physical appearance of the Museum and its exhibits. Chairman Shonman asked for the updated budget that was given to the Packard Foundation.

b. Reaccreditation

Member Arcanin reported that the Museum had not heard anything from the AAM. The digital recording hygromographs mentioned during the previous meeting were not yet working, because of a software problem.

c. Review of Council Policy 200-5

Postponed until incoming Manager Lori Mannel is hired and new Foundation is established.

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