

# **PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**

## **Museum Board Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

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26 August 2009

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

**ABSENT:** *none*

**STAFF:** *none*

**GUESTS:** Deborah Lindsay (Council Liaison), Pat Herrgott, Sally  
Herrgott, Nancy York (Museum Store Manager)

Chair Shonman called the meeting to order at 3:35pm

#### **I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approved unanimously.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of 22 July 2009 Museum Board meeting approved unanimously with Pearse agreeing to send Shonman minor corrections before they are posted on the Board's webpage.

Pearse suggested that the minutes of the 12 August 2009 meeting be approved as well, even though the meeting was cancelled soon after it began due to improper noticing. Shonman agreed and said that they would be included in next month's packet.

#### **III. CORRESPONDENCE**

*none*

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sally Herrgott reported that when she came in last Saturday as a volunteer to open the Museum store no one was present and she did not remember the lock combination. She was able to enter the store through the back, but worried about lack of staff present. Nancy York said she would look into it.

Pat Herrgott asked how she could get in touch with the Museum Board noting that phone numbers are not listed anywhere and she does not use a computer. Shonman replied that his phone number is in the phone book and he welcomes calls. He said he would check with the City Clerk about making information about the Board members both available on the Board's website and posted in print somewhere for those who do not use computers.

#### **V. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS**

Council Liaison Deborah Lindsay noted that the recent recall effort had almost no support; over 500 emails had been received supporting the mayor, and she hoped everyone in Pacific Grove would make it their mission to be positive about the city.

#### **VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Shonman said he was unhappy that the *Hometown Bulletin* persisted in reporting that the Museum had been "given away" when that was just not true; it still belongs completely to the City. He also noted that we were meeting for the first time when the Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove was operating the Museum rather than the City. Consequently, the Board needed to adjust to that change. For example, the Director's report now goes to the City, then to us, and the Director, who is hired by the Foundation, no longer attends our meetings. Moreover, all the Board's records are being moved over to the City.

Wills and Pearse expressed the hope that the Board would receive information from the Foundation directly, and that the City and Foundation would not separate too much.

Arcanin hoped that we would all see a positive attitude in Pacific Grove toward the change, and she circulated a flyer from the First United Methodist Church with a photograph of Yadon's Piperia on the front to reflect that positive attitude.

Blaziek noted the passing of Muriel Pyburn, a long-time volunteer at the Museum and Lighthouse, as well as other local organization, and for many years an active member of the Museum Association Board.

## **VII. MUSEUM DIRECTOR REPORT**

The Museum Director's report had been prepared by Lori Mannel, and copies were available at the meeting as well as on the agenda for the meeting posted on the Museum's website. However, the Director, Lori Mannel, was not present at the meeting.

Shonman mentioned that there was no mention of work on AAM accreditation, and Arcanin assured him that Mannel and the Foundation were working on it.

Pearse said that at the July Board meeting he asked that the attendance and volunteer records be presented graphically so trends could be seen, and Mannel had agreed to do that. This comment led to other comments about how to get the Board's concerns back to the Director and Foundation, something still to be worked out. It was agreed that the Foundation should have a liaison member from their Board attend the Board meetings.

## **VIII. LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Museum Association**

Blaziek presented the Museum report that she prepared from the Association Board meeting of 12 August. The report was available at the meeting as well as appended to the agenda on the Museum's website. The main announcements were (1) the Association fundraiser on 26 September, (2) the Association's Annual Meeting on 7 November, (3) the 6th Annual Monarch Madness event on 28 November, and (4) the Artists in the Museum event on 2 December.

Shonman asked about what will happen to the Association now that the Foundation is in place, and Blaziek said it was not discussed at the last Association Board meeting. However, she said members of the Foundation and Association Board were meeting, along with an attorney, and any change will need to be approved with an election by the Association members.

### **B. Monarch Advocacy Liaison Report**

Blaziek presented the Monarch Liaison Report that she prepared, and which was available at the meeting as well as appended to the agenda on the Museum's website. Highlights included: (1) The construction project of the external building at the Adult School would be completed by the start of the butterfly season. (2) Most of the Douglas iris in the Museum's backyard had been replanted in the Sanctuary by Jack Beigle, Marc Rush, and Bruce Cowan. (3) The

kick-off meeting for the butterfly docents and other interested persons is scheduled for 5 September. (4) Helen Johnson hosted a luncheon on 26 August with people from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and there is the possibility that Cal Poly will send an intern to continue the work done by Jessica Griffiths.

Pat Herrgott said that she had not been able to get Public Works to clean up the Sanctuary so she has resigned as a volunteer there, and Jack Beigle is doing the clean up himself.

Lindsay said that high school students were eager to volunteer for programs such as the Butterfly Sanctuary. She also asked if the Sanctuary is reaching out to other groups monitoring Monarch Butterflies, especially “our” butterflies after they leave our Sanctuary. Blaziek replied that the late Ro Vaccaro kept in contact with other groups and now Helen Johnson is doing the same.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Museum Board Function and Responsibilities**

Shonman led a discussion about a document he prepared entitled “DRAFT Comments on the Duties and Responsibilities of the Pacific Grove Museum Board,” which was available at the meeting as well as appended to the agenda on the Museum’s website. The document examined Article 26 of the City Charter and City Council Policy 200-5. Board members had read the document with Shonman’s comments earlier, and a long, positive discussion followed. It was agreed that changes in City Council Policy 200-5 were needed to reflect the transfer of operating the Museum from the City to the Foundation. However, since the process was still in transition, it was agreed that changes should be made a later time.

Pearse mentioned that the City’s webpage about the Museum and Museum Board should be changed to reflect the role of the Foundation, but agreed that also could be done later.

Blaziek expressed concern about how the Lighthouse would be maintained and operated, and whether the Board should have a role in overseeing it.

Pat Herrgott said she thought the Board was more important than ever in providing a public venue for input on the operation of the Museum, but she was concerned about a potential conflict of interest with a Foundation member (Arcanin) serving on the Board. She also said the Code of Ethics Handbook needed to be revisited, and York responded that volunteers were working to simplify it.

Lindsay encouraged Shonman to report to the City Council that the Board remains involved with the workings of the Museum, with special concerns about the Museum facilities and collections, the Lighthouse, and in providing a means for public input. Shonman agreed to present a report to the next City Council meeting.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

*none*

**Adjournment:** 5:40 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th at 3:30pm

Respectively submitted,  
John Pearse  
Member, Museum Board, City of Pacific Grove