

PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Museum Board Meeting

MINUTES

9 September 2009

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

ABSENT: *none*

STAFF: *none*

GUESTS: Carmelita Garcia (Council Member), Deborah Lindsay (Council Liaison), Pat Herrgott, Sally Herrgott, Dan Myers (for Nancy McDowell, Lighthouse Docent Coordinator), Dennis Tarmina (Heritage Society), Nancy York (Museum Store Manager)

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

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously after agreement to move IX-A forward to allow people interested in the lighthouse to leave early.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of August 12 and August 26 approved with minor changes.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

none

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sally Herrgott asked that a member of the Foundation Board be present at the meetings, and asked whether Arcanin served in that capacity as well as being a member of the Museum Board. Shonman replied that Arcanin was a member of the Board, and he had asked for the Foundation to designate a person to be liaison with the Board.

V. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Council Liaison Deborah Lindsay noted that a new City Manager had been selected and would begin in October. She urged the Board to make an appointment through the City Clerk to meet with him as soon as possible. She also said a new Mayor would probably be selected at the next City Council meeting.

VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Pearse said the upcoming temporary exhibit looked great and Wills said she was pleased with the work on the garden. Arcanin mentioned all the work that is being done in preparation for the site visit by the AAM in October, and asked if Shonman would meet with the AAM committee. Shonman agreed.

Shonman mentioned that the standard way for members of the public to contact appointed members of the City's committees and boards, including the Museum Board, is through the City Clerk. Pat Herrgott said that was not the way it was in the past when addresses and phone numbers of members were published.

IX. OLD BUSINESS**A. Museum Board Function and Responsibilities**

Shonman summarized his report to the September 2 City Council meeting, and said the Council asked that the Board consider having a role overseeing the Point Pinos Lighthouse. He said he invited Dennis Tarmina and Dan Myers to attend our meeting to give their perspective.

Tarmina reviewed the Heritage Society's involvement with the Lighthouse since former City Manager Colangelo asked for help last year. He said the City had signed a contract with a group of professional lighthouse restorers to look over the Lighthouse, and are now waiting their report. He also mentioned the complexities involved with managing the Lighthouse, with deed restrictions and the jurisdiction of different agencies, as well as public safety issues. There is a need, he said, for the City to appoint a person or group to be an advocate of the Lighthouse.

Myers spoke of the role of the docents at the Lighthouse and the Museum's shop there. Nancy McDowell, the City's Lighthouse Docent coordinator, had been working through the Museum but now reports to Public Works; this might hamper her ability to fulfill her responsibilities.

Further discussion among Board members, Tarmina, and Myers established the need for a City-recognized advocate for the Lighthouse, but it was not clear what role the Museum Board should have in the matter. Shonman agreed with Lindsay's suggestion that he and others should meet with the new City Manager as soon as possible to discuss the situation. He also would like to get all the people concerned about the Lighthouse to work together.

VII. MUSEUM DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Mannel had distributed her report earlier, and it was in the Board's agenda package available on the City's website. Pearse, Wills, Blaziek, and Arcanin reported that it was fine. Shonman said he was concerned that no mention was made of work toward reaccreditation. Arcanin said that she and Mannel were putting together material for the AAM site visit next month, and she and Shonman were on the accreditation committee. Lindsay recommended that the Board prepare a letter for the AAM when they come for their site visit. The Board members agreed, and Shonman said he would call a special Museum Board meeting later in the month to deal just with the site visit.

Pat Herrgott pointed out that the Museum Association was not given credit in the report for the volunteer program.

VIII. LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Museum Association

Blaziek said she had not had time to prepare a report, but she orally reported that the latest issue of *Horizons* is at the printer, there will be a fundraiser featuring raptors scheduled for 26 September, and plans were underway for this year's Monarch Madness in November. She also mentioned the discussion at the Association Board's September meeting about whether the Association should dissolve itself and have its members become members of the Foundation or simply merge with the Foundation. She said a lawyer has been retained and the tendency is toward dissolution. Pat Herrgott said she did not like the idea of dissolution, and Sally Herrgott asked if it was urgent to do now.

B. Monarch Advocacy Liaison Report

Blaziek handed out the Monarch Liaison Report that she had prepared. There was a brief discussion of the vandalism that has been occurring at the Monarch Sanctuary, with vandals targeting drip lines, young eucalyptus trees, and a newly planted bottle brush shrub. It might have been done by fanatics opposed to non-native plants.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Pearse brought up the need for the Board to develop a Building Master Plan as called for in Council Policy 200-5. It was agreed that the Board should start doing that, and it will be on the agenda of the October meeting.

Adjournment: 5:35 pm

The next meeting will be a Special Meeting scheduled for later in September to deal with the Board's role in the AAM accreditation visit.

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