

# PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

## Museum Board Meeting

### MINUTES

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11 February 2009

PRESENT: David Shonman (Chair), Geva Arcanin, Sharon Blaziek, John Pearse, Judy Wills  
ABSENT: *none*  
STAFF: Annie Holdren, Lori Mannel  
GUESTS: Pat Herrgott, Sally Herrgott, Deborah Lindsay (Council Liaison), Nancy McDowell (Lighthouse Docent Coordinator), Bruce Obbink (Home Town Bulletin), Lila Staples, Esther Trosow, Vern Yadon (Curator Emeritus)

Chair Shonman called the meeting to order at 3:40pm

I. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chair Shonman suggested that Lila Staples's presentation be moved forward so she could leave early. All agreed and the amended agenda was approved.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Shonman thanked Pearse for doing the minutes of the last meeting. The Board considered the minutes of its January 21, 2009 meeting: Wills pointed out some corrections, which Pearse accepted; Arcanin moved and Wills seconded accepting the corrected minutes, approved unanimously.

Shonman reported that the agendas and minutes of nearly all the Board's 2008 meetings have now been posted on the City's website: <http://www.ci.pg.ca.us/boards/mus.htm/>.

The Board considered the minutes of five previous meetings (these minutes had been presented at the last meeting, but consideration at that time had been postponed until all members could read them). Board members moved, seconded, and approved the minutes for the meetings in 2008 of 28 October (Wills moved/Blaziek seconded/unanimous approval), 8 October (Blaziek/Pearse/ unanimous), 24 September (Shonman/Arcanin/Wills abstained, others approved), 10 September (Blaziek/Shonman/Wills abstained, others approved), and 2 September (Wills corrected/Blaziek/Shonman/unanimous).

Shonman reported that Board meetings were now being recorded, and the CDs of the minutes were being stored for review by interested people.

III. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Shonman reported that he had received email correspondence from Esther Trosow regarding the MPA exhibit. Her email pointed out that there was earlier opposition to the MPA designations by some Pacific Grove residents, and she attached material about cooperative temporary exhibits: (1) a .jpg copy of a memo by Stephen F. Bailey, Museum Director, dated 15 August 1996, entitled "Guidelines for cooperative temporary exhibitions," and (2) a .pdf copy of page 4 of the minutes of the City Council meeting of 09/04/96 indicating approval of the guidelines. Shonman accepted the correspondence and said that he had passed it on to those who were planning the exhibit.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Pat Herrgott said she would like to have copies of the minutes of previous meetings to accompany the agendas. Shonman replied that the minutes were available from Deputy City Clerk Ann O'Rourke, as well as posted on the website.

Pat Herrgott also asked to have access to the Museum Association Board meeting minutes. Shonman replied that the City Board has no authority over the Museum Association Board.

Esther Trosow pointed out that City Council Policy 200-5, dated 10/20/93, says that the Museum Association should exchange meeting minutes with the Museum Board, and furnish copies to the City Council and City Manager. Shonman mentioned that this was a Council recommendation that the Association had chosen to ignore.

**V. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS:** Council Liaison Deborah Lindsay commended the Board for their work, and especially Arcanin for her work on re-accreditation. Lindsay reported that the City Council would have a retreat at the Museum in about a week, when the welfare of the Museum would be considered seriously.

**VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** Arcanin thanked Mannel for all that she has been doing, and said she felt things were looking up for the Museum. She was pleased that the Rotary Club recently met at the Museum.

Shonman reported that draft minutes of Board meetings now being sent to the City Council and the Association, and will be kept on file at the Museum. Shonman also reported that PG Heritage Society member Ken Hinshaw told him that the City received 8 proposals for developing a 10-year restoration plan for the lighthouse, and awarded a contract to Lighthouse Preservationists LLC; their personnel will be coming out in May.

Shonman presented Nancy McDowell a bouquet of tulips in appreciation for her work on the highly successful Lighthouse Family Fun Day and Pt. Pinos Lighthouse Birthday Celebration.

**VII. MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:** Mannel distributed the Manager's Report January 2009, previously sent to Board members as a PowerPoint file. Very upbeat report on events going on at Museum. She pointed out the use of the Museum's collections for the exhibit at the Monterey Airport, opening February 20, and said Board members were invited to attend the opening reception.

Mannel also reported that she had received a call from AAM saying a site visit to the Museum by the re-accreditation committee had been approved.

The Board accepted Mannel's report.

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

**A. Museum Association:** Blaziek passed out a report covering activities of Association Board, including changes on the Association Board membership, huge success of Lighthouse Family Fun Day (crediting Nancy McDowell), which will be repeated annually, plans for the Darwin celebration, progress in replacing Store Manager, and upcoming events: MPA exhibit, Wildflower Show, Paul Ehrlich fundraiser, and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

**B. Monarch Advocacy:** Blaziek also presented Monarch Advocacy Liaison Report, including butterfly population count and beginning of mating, tagging activities, and need for replacement of warning sign.

#### **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Update - Museum Garden Walkway Project:** Mannel reported that she met with ADA Compliance Advisory Committee about the project, made minor adjustments to the plan, and it was approved. The Beautification and Natural Resources Committee also approved the plan. Mannel checked with Celia Martinez in Public Works about the drainage plans. She will present the plans to the City Council at their next meeting for approval.

Blaziek moved and Wills seconded approval of the modified plan for the project; passed unanimously.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Museum Presentation** (moved forward as agreed in I. above): CSUMB Professor Lila Staples presented a PowerPoint presentation on "What IS a Museum." Some discussion by Board members and guests followed.

**B. Museum Display and Sign along Recreational Trail:** Mannel reported that she talked with Celia in Public Works about having Museum volunteers establish a native-plant garden next to the Recreational Trail below 15<sup>th</sup> Street, and place a sign there directing people to the Museum and Historic Downtown. After discussion Pearse moved and Wills seconded approval; passed unanimously.

**C. Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove:** Mannel provided brief review-- (1) City Council approved on 4 June 2008 the pursuit of a public/private governance of the Museum with a non-profit foundation being the private component. (2) Mannel hired in August 2008. (3) The Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove incorporated, and Chris Hasegawa and Jason Burnett formed original members. (4) Hasegawa and Burnett added Geva Arcanin, Judd Perry, and Harriet Mitteldorf so there is now a 5-member board on the Foundation. (5) The Foundation by-laws have been approved. The Foundation will be presented to the City Council at their next meeting, but the time table for future action remains undetermined.

Sally Herrgott asked how the Foundation and Association would work together. Mannel said that the Association is supporting the formation of the Foundation board and that the rest was for them to work out.

Pat Herrgott asked if the Foundation had a bank account yet. Arcanin said no.

Esther Trosow expressed concern about funding, saying the City could not support the Museum alone. Mannel agreed.

Bruce Obbink asked how much the Museum needed for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Mannel said \$300,000; the City will only provide \$150,000, and the Packard Foundation had indicated earlier that it would consider providing a second year of support of \$250,000. However, in the current financial climate, funding remains uncertain.

**Adjournment:** 5:20pm

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