

PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Museum Board Meeting

MINUTES

13 January 2010

Present: Sharon Blaziek, Geva Arcanin, Judy Wills

Absent: John Pearse

Guests: Lori Mannel (Museum Director), Annie Holdren (Education)
Deborah Lindsay (City Council Liaison)

- Meeting called to order by Geva Arcanin at 3:35 PM

I. SELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR

Blaziek mentioned that Pearse was willing to be chairman. Arcanin moved and Wills seconded a motion to appoint Pearse as chair. All agreed.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Blaziek moved to approve the agenda and Wills seconded. All agreed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Regular meeting December 9, 2009 were approved unanimously

Minutes of Special meeting December 15, 2009 were approved unanimously.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from David Shonman stating he was resigning from the Board.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lori Mannel asked that the public record reflect that she never asked Tom Frutchey to dissolve the Museum Board. She never lobbied to eliminate the Board. She stated that in fact she was surprised that he came up with the idea.

VI. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

The City Manager, Council, and Mayor, in trying to meet their goals, are looking at all Boards and Commission in order that the City government be more efficient and streamlined. One suggestion from the City Manager was dissolution of the Museum Board. Council Member Huitt brought up the point that there should be no sweeping changes without a review of the initial purpose for each Board or Commission. The Mayor, City Manager, Council Liaison, and Chair of each Board and Commission will meet and revisit the functions and history of each Board. Lindsay feels the City needs to do its due diligence before making any decisions. Lindsay stated that she will support the Museum Board and be our champion if we have a continuing purpose, especially getting the Foundation off to a good start. She believes there is a list of things the Museum Board should oversee in the agreement between the City and Foundation. Wills mentioned that she had reread the agreement and found over ten items due in the near future. Lindsay asked Wills to forward that list to the Council and the other Board members.

Lindsay also stated that she had considered recommending that the Museum Board go down to three members, but we all realized that the Charter establishes a five member board.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Arcanin told the Board she will not renew her term and is leaving the Board. This would be her last meeting. We all thanked her and acknowledged her hard work through the years supporting the Museum.

VIII. MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mannel stated that there is no formal report this month because personal thank you notes for the 'End of the Year Campaign' have taken up a great deal of her time. She has received almost \$22,000 from the Campaign and is deeply honored by the community support for the Museum. Since this is a matching grant from the Foundation, \$44,000 has actually been raised.

December attendance is up from last year and the donations in the box are up.

A new exhibit called World of Fishes is opening up January 30. It is presented by David W. Greenfield, Ph.D. and Gregor M. Cailliet, Ph.D.

Mannel stated that, on a sour note, a door was left open over the holidays. Nothing was stolen or disrupted. This led to Sentry Alarm finding five outside door alarms were not functioning. These have been

fixed and Mannel has requested the City install a new computer alarm panel. Finances will not allow this to occur until fiscal year 2010-11.

With the possibility of more winter storms coming, there was a discussion about the sump pump. There is an automatic battery backup. It was suggested that the Director request the Police to check on the Museum's electricity during storms. The Police have Mannel's name, number, and a key in case of an emergency.

IX. LIASION COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Museum Association (Blaziek)

The Association met last night. They are winding down. Mail-in ballots for dissolution went out Jan. 8 to all members in good standing. One hundred thirty votes have been received so far, which is over the quorum number. The votes will be counted after the Feb. deadline. Jacque Colbert has offered to help with all the old Association files. Opening reception for World of Fishes will be Jan. 30, from 5-7 PM. Volunteer Appreciation dinner will be Monday, May 10. Horizons newsletter was mailed in January.

b. Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove (Arcanin)

There will be a Public Meeting on Sat., March 6, from 3-5 PM. This will be a town hall meeting and will be held twice a year. There is a new web site coming in Feb. and this will have email capabilities to reach the Foundation Board and Staff. Soon there will be a meeting with a world renowned designer to help update the museum.

c. Monarch Advocacy Liaison Report (Blaziek)

The monarch numbers are down this year compared to last; this seems to be all over the state, not just here in PG. The count at the Sanctuary for the past few weeks:

Dec. 11 - 989

Dec. 15 - 703

Dec. 22 - 281

Dec. 29 - 205

Jan. 5 - 850

None have been found in Washington Park this season.

Scientists have found the monarchs are now in the neighbor's yard adjacent to the Sanctuary. In years past when Jessica did the counts, she would go around the outside perimeter of the Sanctuary to do a full count.

There has been a general decline in numbers in recent years. After the monarch season, the Museum is planning a Monarch Education Symposium under the leadership of Helen Johnson.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Monarch Grove Sanctuary – Stewardship (Blaziek and Pearse)

Blaziek summarized the report that she and Pearse wrote about the past and present situation of the Monarch Sanctuary. After a discussion about reestablishing Friends of the Monarch, improving Brokaw Hall, use of the Hall, water credits, and the Stuart Weiss report of 1998, it was decided that we make two motions.

- a. Blaziek moved and Wills seconded that the Museum Board recommends Frutchey explore using Brokaw Hall as a Monarch Interpretive Center. All voted in favor.
- b. Wills moved and Blaziek seconded that Tom Frutchey and the City request Stuart Weiss to do an updated report on the Monarch Sanctuary and that Weiss be on retainer. All voted in favor.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM.

The next Museum Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Wills
Member, Museum Board, City of Pacific Grove