Tempe

Minutes
Historical Museum Advisory Board
May 7, 2009

Minutes of the Historical Museum Advisory Board held on May 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m., at the Tempe Public Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.

Board Present:
Gail Fisher, Chair
Jean Berry
Anne Chandler
Betty Enz
Robert McKinley
Lisa Roach, Vice Chair
Julie Syrmopoulos
Board Absent:
Dan Killoren
Frank Schmuck
City Staff Present:
Tom Canasi, Community Services Manager
Kathy Berzins, Deputy Community Services Manager, Social Services
Amy Douglass, Museum Administrator
Jerri Copenhaver, Administrative Assistant
Guests Present:
Victor Linoff

Meeting convened at 9:05 a.m.
Chair Gail Fisher called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2009
MOTION: Betty Enz moved to approve the minutes of April 2, 2009.
SECOND: Jean Berry
DECISION: Carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 2 – Communications
- **Tom Canasi,** Community Services Manager, announced that he is retiring on June 18. He introduced **Kathy Berzins**, Deputy Community Services Manager, Social Services, and said that she has been selected to be the Interim Community Services Manager.
- **Mr. Canasi** also explained how the Community Services Department is being restructured.
- Presently, the department contains three divisions. Two of the divisions, Cultural Services and the Library, will be combined. This will eliminate one of the Deputy Community Services Manager positions.
- **Ms. Berzins** spoke about her vision for the department and gave information about the various positions she has held during the 28 years she has worked for the City of Tempe.

Agenda Item 3– Fiscal Impacts to Museum's Operating Budget

Dr. Amy Douglass offered to answer questions about the budget.

- She said that May 1 was the deadline for employees to apply for the *Voluntary Separation Incentive Program*, so it is too early to determine how this program will impact the positions that have been slated for elimination.

Agenda Item 4– Museum Renovation

Dr. Amy Douglass gave an update on the **museum renovation** project.

- She said the demolition is underway, with the demolition work starting inside the exhibit gallery and working out through the lobby. The exterior will be last.
- **Dr. Douglass** reported that several museums are reusing many of the exhibit and gift shop components and fixtures.
- She also said that she has submitted proposals for grants from the **Gila River Indian Community** and the **Pascua Yaqui Tribe** to help fund community room audio visual equipment, furnishings and programming.
- **Dr. Douglass** said there will be a segment about the **museum's renovation** on the television show *Tempe 411* on the Tempe 11 cable channel.
- She distributed copies of the renovation project timeline to the Board.

Agenda Item 5– Public Relations

Dr. Amy Douglass reported that street pole banners, which announce the museum and library renovation projects, have been installed on Rural Road and Southern Avenue.

- She said a new logo is being designed by **Gyroscope**, the firm that designed the new exhibit hall, with input from the city's Community Relations staff.
- Their original proposals are being tweaked and the concepts should be ready in time for the June board meeting.

Agenda Item 6– Reopening Event Planning

Chair Gail Fisher said the **Post Renovation Opening Committee** met on April 21 to begin planning the **reopening event**.

- The committee discussed having a weeklong event, which will target different groups.
- **Tom Canasi** and **Kathy Berzins** thought it would be a good idea to include a member of the library staff on the committee, in case there is a possibility to include the library renovation as part of the event.
- **Ms. Berzins** also suggested including the city's Community Relations staff in the planning.

Agenda Item 7 – Board Standing Committee and Representative Reports

7A Petersen House Endowment Committee

There was no report.

7B Public Programs Representative

Lisa Roach said the **Public Programs Committee** met on May 5.

- She said they are working on finalizing program dates, content, target audiences and sources for funding.

7C Policy, Procedures and Accessions Representative

Anne Chandler read the **Policy, Procedures and Accessions Committee** report for April.

- There are currently nine provisional deposits. There were four new provisional deposits, one loan and seven new accessions.
- The report indicated that renovation to the collection storage area, which will enlarge the storage space for the three-dimensional collections, is in progress and should be completed in June.

7D Historic Preservation Representative

In **Dan Killoren's** absence **Chair Gail Fisher** asked **Victor Linoff** to comment on the **Historic Preservation Commission's (HPC)** meeting in April.

- **Mr. Linoff** indicated that he missed the April meeting.
- He discussed some of the items that the **HPC** is currently working on, including historic preservation grants and a plaque program to identify historic properties and districts.
- He said the City Council would consider the historic district designation of the **Date Palm Manor** neighborhood at their meeting on May 14.

7E Tempe Historical Society Representative

Betty Enz reported that the **Tempe Historical Society (THS)** celebrated their fortieth anniversary at the annual luncheon on May 2 at Monti's La Casa Vieja.

- She said the speakers at the luncheon were **U.S. Congressman Harry Mitchell** and **Marshall Trimble**.
- **Ms. Enz** said that the **THS** *Lunch Talk* series would resume in October.

7F Diversity Awareness Representative

Dr. Amy Douglass said the **African American Advisory Committee** would meet on May 8.

- She reported that they are still conducting oral history interviews. They are also working on a tri-fold brochure that will give information about the history of African Americans in Tempe.
- **Julie Syrmopoulos** volunteered to be the new **Diversity Awareness Representative.**

7G Oral History Representative

Robert McKinley reported that the **Oral History Committee** did not meet in April.

- He said using transcription software may not be a reality. He also explained that there are some computer hardware options, but they are very expensive.

Agenda Item 8 – Board Announcements

- **Lisa Roach** announced that the **Questers** national convention would be held in Phoenix in May 2010.
- **Ms. Roach** also announced that the next public workshop on the **Papago Park Master Plan** would be on June 15.

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items

- Presentation about Tempe Public Library renovation

The Board's next meeting will be June 4, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Prepared by: Jerri Copenhaver

Gail Fisher

Gail Fisher
Chair, Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board