

Minutes Historical Museum Advisory Board October 4, 2007

Minutes of the Historical Museum Advisory Board held on October 4, 2007, 9:00 a.m., at the Tempe Historical Museum Board Room, 809 E. Southern Avenue, Tempe, Arizona.

Board Present:

Gail Fisher, Chair
Jean Berry, Vice Chair
Anne Chandler
Marcia Cypert
Betty Enz
Victor Linoff
Lisa Roach
Frank Schmuck

City Staff Present:

Jody Ulich, Deputy Community Services Manager, Cultural Services
James Burns, Curator of History
Jerrri Copenhaver, Administrative Assistant

Guest Present:

Phil Weddle, Weddle Gilmore Architects

Meeting convened at 9:03 a.m.

Chair Gail Fisher called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes: September 6, 2007

MOTION: Vice Chair Jean Berry moved to approve the minutes of September 6, 2007.

SECOND: Marcia Cypert

DECISION: Carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 2 – Communications

- **Chair Gail Fisher** informed the Board that word had just been received that volunteer **Claire Young**, long-time gift shop manager, had just passed away.
- **Jerrri Copenhaver** distributed updated copies of the Museum Advisory Board list.
- She also asked the Board if they had all received invitations to the Tardeada reception on October 12, and encouraged them to RSVP.
- **Ms. Copenhaver** gave an update on the Boards and Commissions training classes that are being offered by the **Tempe Learning Center (TLC)**. She also asked if they would have a preference on a week night and time for an evening training class.
- **Jody Ulich** said she had suggested that **TLC** consider offering the training in conjunction with a regularly scheduled board meeting. The Board thought that was a good idea.

Agenda Item 3 – Introduce Curator of History – James Burns

Chair Gail Fisher introduced the museum's new Curator of History, **James Burns**, to the Board and asked each of them to introduce themselves.

- **Mr. Burns** said he had lived in Arizona from 1988 to 1998 and was pleased to be back.
- He talked about his educational background and said he received his Masters degree from

Arizona State University in the Public History program. He is currently working on his Doctorate degree in Educational Policy Studies.

- **Mr. Burns** said his most recent position was as an administrator and curator for an art museum in Atlanta that focused on the art of the American West.

Agenda Item 4 – Introduce Weddle Gilmore Architects – Phil Weddle

Chair Gail Fisher introduced **Phil Weddle** from **Weddle Gilmore Architects** and explained that his architectural team had been selected to work on the museum's renovation.

- **Mr. Weddle** talked about his background. He gave a presentation about his firm's background and some of their projects. The presentation also included some of the projects that were designed by **Gyroscope, Inc.**, the firm that will be designing the new exhibit hall.
- **Ms. Fisher** said the museum staff and other members of the renovation steering committee met with representatives from **Weddle Gilmore Architects** and **Gyroscope, Inc.** for two days last week to start working on the renovation plans.
- She said **Weddle Gilmore Architects** and **Gyroscope, Inc.** will return in about four to six weeks to show some conceptual ideas.
- **Ms. Fisher** also reported that there would be another opportunity for public input on the project at the museum's Third Thirstday Night Café on November 15.
- **James Burns** said he would be talking about the museum's interpretive framework at the Third Thirstday Night Café on October 18. He said the interpretive framework's four themes will be the focus for the new exhibit hall.

Agenda Item 5 – Committee Assignments

Chair Gail Fisher distributed the current committee representative list. She asked if anyone wanted to change assignments or volunteer to fill any of the vacancies.

- **Lisa Roach** would like to be the representative to the **Historic Preservation Commission**.
- **Betty Enz** will continue to be the representative to the **Tempe Historical Society Board**.
- **Anne Chandler** will continue to be the representative to the **Policy, Procedures and Accessions Committee**.
- **Ms. Fisher** will be the representative to the **Public Programs Committee**.
- **Vice Chair Jean Berry** will continue as the Chair of the **Petersen House Endowment Committee**. **Marcia Cypert** will continue serving on that committee.
- **Marcia Cypert** volunteered to be the **Diversity Awareness Committee** representative.

Item 6 – Museum “Tag Line”

James Burns reported that a meeting of the **tag line** committee will be scheduled once **Dr. Amy Douglass** returns from vacation.

- **Mr. Burns** asked **Victor Linoff** if he planned to continue serving on the **tag line** committee.
- **Mr. Linoff** agreed to continue serving, at the request of **Chair Gail Fisher**.
- **Mr. Burns** said **Dr. Douglass** has suggested that the committee meet with the City's Community Relations staff to determine a future strategy.
- **Ms. Fisher** said she still thinks it would be a good idea to have an interim **tag line** during the museum's renovation that would build anticipation for the museum's reopening.

Agenda Item 7 – Petersen House Multipurpose Facility

There was no report.

Agenda Item 8 – Lecture and Book Signing – Frank Schmuck

Frank Schmuck gave an update on the **lecture and book signing** with **Colonel Matthew Bogdanos** that will be held on November 8.

- **Mr. Schmuck** said he has secured three sponsorships for the event. **Tri West Healthcare** is donating \$10,000, **Eight/KAET** is the advertising sponsor, and **Arizona State University** is providing the space for the event.
- He said the tickets are \$15 per person and **Colonel Bogdanos'** book will be \$20.
- He gave other details about the event and how it is being promoted.

- **Mr. Schmuck** indicated that he would like the **Tempe Historical Society** to notify their membership about the event.
- He estimates that \$2500 to \$3000 will be raised for the **Tempe Historical Society**.

Agenda Item 9 – Board Standing Committee and Representative Reports

9A Petersen House Endowment Committee

Vice Chair Jean Berry reported that the **Petersen House Endowment Committee** decided to do the same direct-mail fundraiser they did last fall.

- She said the letters to potential donors should be mailed in the next couple of days.
- **Chair Gail Fisher** suggested having a “thank-you” reception at the **Petersen House** for the donors so they could see the House and the donor recognition sign.

9B Public Programs Representative

Chair Gail Fisher reported on the museum’s upcoming **Public Programs**.

- She said the **Public Programs Committee** met on October 2.
- **Ms. Fisher** reported that the committee received information on the museum’s exhibit, *Art with a Cause*, which will open in November at the City Hall gallery. She said there may be an exhibit opening reception on November 9.
- **James Burns** gave more details about the exhibit, which is a collaborative effort between the museum and **Xico Inc.**

9C Policy, Procedures and Accessions Representative

Anne Chandler said the **Policy, Procedures and Accessions (PP&A) Committee** had not met, but they will resume meeting in October.

- She read a report listing the new provisional deposits, loans and accessions for the months of June through September.
- There were six loans and 41 new acquisitions for the permanent collection.
- The report also indicated that there are currently 167 provisional deposits. This number has been reduced from 230 in May, and includes 14 new provisional deposits that were received over the summer.

9D Historic Preservation Representative

Lisa Roach said she attended the **Historic Preservation Commission’s (HPC)** meeting on September 18. She read a report she had prepared.

- Included in the meeting was a presentation about plans for a new student housing complex and sanctuary at **All Saints Catholic Church, Newman Center**.
- There was also a presentation about the redevelopment plans for **Monti’s La Casa Vieja**.
- She said there was also discussion about historic designation for **Hayden Butte**.
- The next **HPC** meeting has been rescheduled and will be held on October 18.

9E Tempe Historical Society Representative

Betty Enz reported on the **Tempe Historical Society’s (THS)** upcoming activities.

- She said the **THS** monthly lunch talks will begin again on October 10.
- **Ms. Enz** also reported that tickets are available for the annual barbecue on November 11.

9F Diversity Awareness Committee

- **James Burns** reported that the Muslim exhibit advisory committee met on October 3.
- He said they outlined the exhibit planning process and how the museum produces exhibits.
- “Jewel in the Desert” has been selected as the title for the exhibit, which will be about Muslims in Arizona. It will open in the City Hall gallery in the fall of 2008.
- **Mr. Burns** said the committee also reviewed the oral history list and discussed educational programming, exhibit content, potential artifacts, and ideas for an opening event.
- **Mr. Burns** also reported that he is working with the City’s Gay/Straight Alliance to form a historical task force that will begin collecting oral histories and objects.

Agenda Item 10 – Board Comments and Future Agenda Items

- **Victor Linoff** said the 100th anniversary celebration for Tempe High School would take place during October.

The Board's next meeting will be November 1, 2007.

MOTION: Betty Enz moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Jean Berry

DECISION: Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Prepared by: Jerri Copenhaver

Gail Fisher
Chair, Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board