

## Minutes Historical Museum Advisory Board March 5, 2009

Minutes of the Historical Museum Advisory Board held on March 5, 2009, 9:00 a.m., at the Tempe Public Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.

**Board Present:**

Gail Fisher, Chair  
Anne Chandler  
Betty Enz  
Dan Killoren  
Robert McKinley  
Lisa Roach, Vice Chair  
Frank Schmuck  
Julie Syrmopoulos

**Board Absent:**

Jean Berry

**City Staff Present:**

Adrienne Richwine, Deputy Community Services Manager, Cultural Services  
Amy Douglass, Museum Administrator  
Jeri Copenhaver, Administrative Assistant

**Guests Present:**

Victor Linoff

**Meeting convened at 9:00 a.m.**

**Chair Gail Fisher** called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2009**

**MOTION:** Lisa Roach moved to approve the minutes of February 5, 2009.

**SECOND:** Robert McKinley

**DECISION:** Carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item 2 – Communications**

- **Dr. Amy Douglass** distributed flyers about the upcoming Petersen House Art Festival, *Art at the Red House*, on March 21. She encouraged everyone to attend.
- **Chair Gail Fisher** read an email that **Peggy Moroney**, volunteer museum docent, had written to **Victor Linoff**.
- **Ms. Moroney's** email expressed concern about the potential elimination of the Museum Aide's position at the **Petersen House Museum** causing a closure of the Petersen House Museum. She also was concerned about the potential elimination of the Curator of History position at the museum.
- **Dr. Douglass** assured the Board that there were no plans to close the Petersen House.
- **Ms. Fisher** congratulated **Dan Killoren** for winning a "James W. Creasman Award of Excellence" at the **ASU Alumni Association's** Founder's Day dinner on March 3.

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### **Agenda Item 3 – Fiscal Impacts to Museum’s Operating Budget – Tom Canasi**

- **Lisa Roach** expressed her concerns about the potential staff cuts at the museum. She mentioned that she witnessed a strong show of support for the museum at a **Los Vecinos** meeting she had recently attended.
- **Ms. Roach** encouraged the Board members to contact the City Council to let them know how they felt about the proposed cuts.
- **Dr. Amy Douglass** said the City Council is continuing to look at various aspects of the budget and are investigating the possibility of offering a retirement incentive package.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Museum Renovation**

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

- The contractor’s final guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the project was reviewed at a meeting on February 18.
- At that time the project was about \$100,000 over budget. Since then, the gap has been closed with funds reserved from **Tempe Historical Society** donations, some funds in museum’s operating budget, and \$5,000 from a fundraising event at **Trick’s Restaurant**.
- March 26 is the target date for seeking the City Council’s approval of the construction contract and GMP. If they approve, construction should begin by mid-April.
- The exhibit hall artifacts have been stored and many of the exhibit components and gift shop fixtures have been donated to other museums and the **Tempe Union High School District**.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Museum “Tag Line”**

**Dr. Amy Douglass** said that **Martha Garner**, a graphic designer in the city’s Community Relations Department, has been working on designing a new museum logo.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Reopening Event Planning**

**Dr. Amy Douglass** gave an update on the planning for the museum’s **reopening**.

- She said **Nikki Ripley**, Communication and Media Relations Director, and **Mary Fowler**, from the Cultural Services Division, are working to develop a marketing plan for the museum’s reopening.
- They want to do some joint marketing with the library, since both projects will be ongoing at the same time. They feel that visitors to the site probably won’t be able to distinguish one project from the other, unless they are made aware of both projects.
- **Martha Garner** is working on designing some street banners that will promote the renovation.
- The initial meeting for the **reopening event** committee needs to be scheduled.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Board Standing Committee and Representative Reports**

#### **7A Petersen House Endowment Committee**

There was no report.

#### **7B Public Programs Representative**

**Lisa Roach** reported that she attended the **Public Programs Committee** meeting on March 3.

- She said they are still working on fine-tuning the proposed **public programs**.
- **Ms. Roach** also reported that the museum has received a \$15,000 grant from the **Pascua Yaqui Tribe** for the fifth grade program.
- **Dr. Amy Douglass** said **James Burns**, Curator of History, has been working with a committee of fifth grade teachers and some of the senior museum docents to plan a new fifth grade program.

#### **7C Policy, Procedures and Accessions Representative**

There was no report.

#### **7D Historic Preservation Representative**

**Dan Killoren** said he was unable to attend the **Historic Preservation Commission’s (HPC)** meeting in February. He had updates about some of the **HPC’s** recent activities.

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- The **Date Palm Manor** neighborhood is working to attain designation as a historic district.
  - The design guidelines for the **Roosevelt Addition Historic District** have been completed and the **Wilkie (Braun/Gutierrez) House** was designated.
  - **Victor Linoff** said the **HPC** received an update on **Veterans' Memorial / Ash Avenue Bridge Abutment** at their February meeting.

#### **7E Tempe Historical Society Representative**

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

- **Ms. Enz** said the **THS Board** had a retreat at the new **Tempe Transportation Center** on February 24. They also were given a tour of the facility.
- She said that the **THS Lunch Talk** on March 11 would feature Chautauquan **Joan Sandin** as schoolteacher Eulalia "Sister" Bourne. The final lunch talk of the season will be on April 8.

#### **7F Diversity Awareness Representative**

**Dr. Amy Douglass** said that some of the **African American Advisory Committee** members and the museum's Curator of History, **James Burns**, participated in program for Black History Month at **Salt River Project**.

- The museum staff assisted members of the **Muslim Advisory Committee** with a Black History Month event on February 27 at the **Edna Vihel Center for the Arts**.

#### **7G Oral History Representative**

**Lisa Roach** reported that she was unable to attend the **Oral History Committee** meeting in February.

- She said she has resigned from the committee, due to another commitment.
- **Robert McKinley** will be the new **Oral History Committee** representative.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Board Announcements**

- **Lisa Roach** announced that the City of Tempe Neighborhood workshop and awards would be held on April 18.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items**

- Update on Veterans' Memorial / Ash Avenue Bridge Abutment and Approach

The Board's next meeting will be April 2, 2009.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.**

Prepared by: Jerri Copenhaver

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Gail Fisher  
Chair, Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board