

Minutes Historical Museum Advisory Board April 2, 2009

Minutes of the Historical Museum Advisory Board held on April 2, 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
Dan Killoren
Robert McKinley
Lisa Roach, Vice Chair
Frank Schmuck
Julie Symopoulos

City Staff Present:

Amy Douglass, Museum Administrator
Jerri Copenhaver, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Victor Linoff
David Lucier, Tempe Veterans Foundation

Meeting convened at 9:02 a.m.

Chair Gail Fisher called the meeting to order.

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

MOTION: Julie Symopoulos moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2009.

SECOND: Lisa Roach

DECISION: Carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 2 – Communications

- **Dr. Amy Douglass** reported that the Petersen House Art Festival, *Art at the Red House*, on March 21 was very successful. She said over 300 people saw the special art exhibit inside the Petersen House and the event attendance was estimated at 500 people.
- **Dr. Douglass** said there are tentative plans to hold the event again, in the fall of 2010.
- **Chair Gail Fisher** said she wrote a column for the *Arizona Republic* about supporting the cultural arts in Tempe, which mentioned the Petersen House Art Festival.

Agenda Item 3 – Proposed Veterans' Memorial – David Lucier

Chair Gail Fisher introduced **David Lucier**, President of the **Tempe Veterans Foundation**.

- **Mr. Lucier** explained the three main functions of the organization: raising funds to support veterans' programs; planning the design and construction of a **veterans' memorial** in Tempe; and organizing the annual 9-11 memorial, *The Healing Field*, at Tempe Beach Park.
- He showed the conceptual design for the **proposed veterans' memorial**, which will be located on the west side of **Tempe Beach Park**. It will incorporate the historic **Ash Avenue**

Bridge abutment and roadway into its design.

- **Mr. Lucier** explained the individual components of the memorial, including a “Veterans’ Parade” on the roadway, an overlook on the abutment, and a visitor’s center underneath the abutment. The proposed “Court of Service” will honor the five branches of the service. Other elements at the memorial might honor the civilian services, such as the Merchant Marines.
- He said there would be a public opening ceremony on Memorial Day, May 25. The dedication and grand opening is planned for November 11, 2011.
- **Mr. Lucier** then answered several questions from the Board about the **proposed memorial**.

Agenda Item 4 – Fiscal Impacts to Museum’s Operating Budget

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

- In response to a question about the retirement/resignation incentive package, **Dr. Douglass** said the package has been approved and many employees have expressed an interest in applying. It is too early to determine how this will impact the positions that have been slated for elimination.
- She said that 32 citywide positions, which were targeted for elimination, have been reinstated by the City Council. None of these were museum positions.

Agenda Item 5 – Museum Renovation

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

- The City Council approved the contract with **Brignall Construction** on March 26.
- Once all the necessary paperwork has been finalized, construction can begin. This should take place around mid April.
- Members of the project team met with three highly-qualified, local exhibit fabrication firms to select who will build the exhibit casework.
- They favored a firm that had strong museum experience and a top-notch fabricating facility. Brignall Construction is currently checking the firm’s references.

Agenda Item 6 – Museum Public Relations

Dr. Amy Douglass reported that the City’s Community Relations Department has put together a joint marketing plan for the museum and the library, since both renovation projects will be happening concurrently.

- She explained some of the components that are included in the plan and said that both facilities will also have their own separate publicity.
- **Dr. Douglass** will have the **Post Renovation Opening Committee** review the plan, when they have their first meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Reopening Event Planning

Dr. Amy Douglass said a **Post Renovation Opening Committee** meeting is scheduled for April 21 at the Connections Café.

- The committee, which consists of **Gail Fisher**, **Anne Chandler** and **Julie Syrmopoulos**, will begin planning the reopening event.

Agenda Item 8 – Board Standing Committee and Representative Reports

8A Petersen House Endowment Committee

There was no report.

8B Public Programs Representative

Lisa Roach said the **Public Programs Committee** would have their meeting next week.

8C Policy, Procedures and Accessions Representative

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

- There are currently 28 provisional deposits. There were two new provisional deposits, one loan and four new accessions.

- **Chair Gail Fisher** said she recently received information that will result in the donation of signs from **Broadmor School** and **Scales School** by the **Tempe Elementary School District**.

8D Historic Preservation Representative

Dan Killoren said he attended the **Historic Preservation Commission's (HPC)** meeting in March.

- There was a neighborhood meeting about the possible historic district designation of the **Date Palm Manor** neighborhood. There was also a neighborhood meeting about historic designation of the **Elliott (Garbinski) House**, which is in the **Maple-Ash** neighborhood.
- **Mr. Killoren** said the **HPC** has been discussing a "plaque program" to place plaques at properties that have received historic designation.
- He said the **HPC** has also been working with the **Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation** on their upcoming fundraising event.

8E Tempe Historical Society Representative

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

- She said that the **THS Lunch Talk** on April 8 would feature Chautauquan **Chris Smith** as William Mulholland. This is the final lunch talk of the season.

8F Diversity Awareness Representative

Dan Killoren said he was unable to attend the **African American Advisory Committee** meeting.

- He indicated that this will be a recurring issue and he can no longer be the **Diversity Awareness Representative**.

8G Oral History Representative

Robert McKinley reported that he attended the **Oral History Committee** meeting on March 10.

- He said the committee reviewed a list of potential interviewees from 2002, which had recently been located. Many of these will be added to the current list, which already has over 200 names.
- **Mr. McKinley** said three workshops to train new oral history volunteers would be held in the next two months.
- **Dan Killoren** said over 300 LGBT oral history interviews, from people throughout the Valley, will be deposited at the museum. Most of the interviews have already been transcribed.
- **Mr. McKinley** said he is still checking on transcription software.

Agenda Item 9 – Board Announcements

- **Lisa Roach** announced that the City of Tempe Neighborhood workshop and awards would be held on April 18.
- **Frank Schmuck** announced that **Barbara Hatch** would unveil the sixth Arizona Heritage Project book of veterans' stories on May 3.

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

The Board's next meeting will be May 7, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Prepared by: Jerri Copenhaver