

## **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 Symopoulos** 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  
Chair, Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board