

Minutes Historical Museum Advisory Board June 4, 2009

Minutes of the Historical Museum Advisory Board held on June 4, 2009, 9:00 a.m., at the Tempe Public Library Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona.

Board Present:

Gail Fisher, Chair
Dan Killoren
Robert McKinley
Lisa Roach, Vice Chair
Julie Syrmopoulos

Board Absent:

Jean Berry
Anne Chandler
Betty Enz
Frank Schmuck

City Staff Present:

Adrienne Richwine, Deputy Community Services Manager, Library and Cultural Services
Amy Douglass, Museum Administrator
Jerri Copenhaver, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Victor Linoff

Meeting convened at 9:06 a.m.

Chair Gail Fisher called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes for May 7, 2009

MOTION: Robert McKinley moved to approve the minutes of May 7, 2009.

SECOND: Lisa Roach

DECISION: Carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 2 – Communications

- **Dr. Amy Douglass** reported that Catherine “Biddy” Hayden and Marie Rice, both Tempe Historical Society life members, passed away in May.
- **Dr. Douglass** also announced that there would be a Boards and Commissions Orientation on June 30. She distributed information about the orientation and encouraged the Board to attend.
- **Chair Gail Fisher** reported that **Jay Mark** wrote an article about the museum’s renovation that was published in the Arizona Republic on May 8.

Agenda Item 3 – Museum Staff

Dr. Amy Douglass reported that two museum staff members have decided to take advantage of the *Voluntary Separation Incentive Program* that was being offered by the city.

- She said that **Ann Poulos**, Curator of Collections, is retiring on June 25 and **Richard Bauer**, Curator of Photographs and Archives, will be retiring in June 2010.
- **Dr. Douglass** indicated that because two staff members are leaving, the Curator of History position will not be eliminated, as originally planned.
- She said it has not been decided which curator position will be eliminated instead of the Curator of History, but that decision will determine whether or not the Curator of Collections position will be able to be filled in the near future.
- **Dr. Douglass** said there would be a retirement reception on June 25 for **Ms. Poulos**.
- The Board had a lengthy discussion about the decreased staffing at the museum. They decided to communicate their staffing concerns to the City Council. **Dan Killoren** volunteered to draft a letter to the Council, on behalf of the Board.

Agenda Item 4 – Renovation Project

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

- She said the demolition has been completed and the contractor has been working on the plumbing, electrical, and the foundation for the new façade.
- She said they will be pouring the concrete pad for the community room, lobby extension and entry court next.
- **Dr. Douglass** will work with the contractor to arrange a time for the Board to tour the construction site, once the actual construction begins.
- She indicated that there are photographs of the construction on the museum's website and there will also be a segment about the renovation on *Tempe 411* on the city's cable channel.

Agenda Item 5 – New Logo

Dr. Amy Douglass distributed packets showing options for a new museum logo.

- She said the logo was designed by **Gyroscope**, the firm that designed the museum's new exhibit hall, with input from the city's Community Relations staff.
- **Dr. Douglass** said the bridge was retained for continuity with the museum's old logo. The logo's color and lettering reflect elements that are being used in the new exhibit hall.
- She also explained that the logo is flexible for different applications.
- The packet showed two choices for the bridge; Mill Avenue and Ash Avenue. **Dr. Douglass** asked the Board for their preference.
- The Board discussed the logo options. Some indicated that they would like to see the lights added to the Ash Avenue Bridge. They also thought it would be a good idea for the **Tempe Historical Society** to update their logo to co-brand with the museum's logo.

MOTION: Lisa Roach moved to approve the [logo] package with option A, the Ash Avenue Bridge at water level, and to encourage the [Tempe Historical] Society to think about changing font and color to co-brand with the new museum logo.

- **DISCUSSION: Julie Symopoulos** asked if there is time to send this back to the graphic artists to see if the lights could be incorporated into the logo.

AMENDED MOTION: Lisa Roach amended her motion to [include] looking at the possibility of incorporating the historic lighting on option A, Ash Avenue Bridge with water, water level view to be used however.

SECOND: Julie Symopoulos

DECISION: Carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 6 – Reopening Event Planning

Dr. Amy Douglass said she, **Anne Chandler**, and **Mary Ann Kwilosz**, who is representing the **Tempe Historical Society**, met on May 19 to work on the framework for the opening events.

- She said there will be a Friday evening reception, a grand opening for the general public on Saturday, and a **Tempe Historical Society** barbeque on Sunday.
- **Dr. Douglass** said there will be different events that will target various audiences over the course of the week-long opening.

- She said volunteer recruitment would be targeted throughout the week.
- **Dr. Douglass** will show these concepts to the city's Community Relations staff, to get their input, before they are developed any further.
- **Dan Killoren** suggested planning a fundraising event, in conjunction with the opening.

Agenda Item 7 – Call for Nominations for Board Officers

MOTION: Chair Gail Fisher moved to nominate Lisa Roach for Chair and Dan Killoren for Vice Chair.

SECOND: Julie Symopolous

DECISION: Carried unanimously.

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 resume their meetings in the fall.

8C Policy, Procedures and Accessions Representative

There was no report.

8D Historic Preservation Representative

Dan Killoren reported on the **Historic Preservation Commission's (HPC)** recent activities.

- He said the City Council approved the historic district designation for the **Date Palm Manor** and historic designation for the **Elliott [Garbinski] House** at their meeting on May 28.
- **Mr. Killoren** said the **HPC** is putting together a proposal that will be sent to the City Council, asking them to support a bond-funded grant program to assist property owners in restoring historic properties.
- He said they are also working on a plaque program that would identify historic properties and districts.
- **Mr. Killoren** said the **HPC** would not meet in June.

8E Tempe Historical Society Representative

There was no report.

8F Diversity Awareness Representative

There was no report.

8G Oral History Representative

Robert McKinley reported that the **Oral History Committee** met on May 12.

- He said there are currently 233 names on list of potential oral history interviewees. Of those, 50 have been labeled as a high priority.
- **Mr. McKinley** said the committee members will concentrate on conducting the high priority interviews this summer.

Agenda Item 9 – Board Announcements

- **Lisa Roach** announced that the next public involvement workshops on the **Papago Park Master Plan** would be on June 15.
- **Dan Killoren** announced that the **Phoenix Museum of History** will close on June 30.
- **Chair Gail Fisher** announced that the **Friends of Tempe Center for the Arts 3rd Annual Gala** would be held on September 12.

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items

- Presentation about Tempe Public Library renovation
- Update on exhibit content

The Board's next meeting will be September 3, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Prepared by: Jerri Copenhaver

Gail Fisher
Chair, Tempe Historical Museum Advisory Board