

MINUTES
FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
APRIL 11, 2011
4:00 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board: Mr. Ron Wilson, Mr. Dave Kendall, Ms. Sharon Brookshire, Mr. Mike Haddock, Ms. Suzan Barnes, Mr. Thomas Warner, and Ms. Kristin Brighton. Present at this meeting was Mr. Curt Loupe, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Bob Workman, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; Ms. Melissa Kirkwood, Development Officer; Mrs. Buffy Woodward, Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Pam Jager, Budget & Audit Analyst.

MINUTES

Mr. Warner called for the approval of the March minutes. It was moved by Mr. Haddock, seconded by Mr. Wilson, that the March minutes be approved. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION AND FABRICATION OF EXHIBITS

Mr. Workman stated that visits to the three finalist exhibit fabrication companies have been completed. Their bids were very competitive. The decision was made to go with Split Rock Studios, Minneapolis. The company has won numerous design awards, has a strong national portfolio, has had success working with Hilferty & Associates, has impressive project management capability, and will outsource key mechanical interactive devices. Five companies have bid the audio/visual components. The design team and McCownGordon Construction are now evaluating the technical requirements of the Immersive Experience, and the final selection of the audio/visual production firm will be made soon.

The Flint Hills Discovery Center should open in early April 2012. Numerous trades are currently on site. Steel and concrete are near completion, and windows shapes are formed. The stone work is underway and the glass cylinder begins within the month. Construction of the FHDC should be complete by October 2011.

Mr. Workman reported that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommended that the park next to the FHDC should be named the Discovery Center Plaza. Discussion was held.

PROPOSED STAFFING STRUCTURE

Mr. Workman presented a proposed staffing chart, which is a work in progress. The equivalent of 12 full-time positions is proposed. More staff could be hired in the future, as the budget allows. The Curator of Education position will be shared with Sunset Zoo. The Curator of Education will begin work for the FHDC on July 1, 2011. The majority of the other positions will begin work on or after January 1, 2012. The FHDC will be open approximately 55 hours a week. Hours of operation will be discussed at another meeting. Discussion was held.

DISCUSSION OF TEMPORARY EXHIBITS PROGRAM

Mr. Workman gave an overview of the temporary exhibits program. The purpose of the temporary exhibits program is to provide regularly changing exhibits and related programs that enhance the overall visitor experience, generally focused on the local and/or near regional audiences, to encourage repeat visitation and serve as a means of building collaborative relationships with area organizations.

The logistics are as follow: 2,000 square feet of space adjacent to a possible additional 1,000 square feet of space; must meet security levels and HVAC guidelines. The exhibits will generally range in length from 8-16 weeks each, but longer or shorter periods are possible. The FHDC will meet moderate security levels, but could be higher with the addition of guards. Preliminary research suggests that the budget for the

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development and rental of temporary exhibits should be \$75,000 to \$100,000 per year. Staff will work to secure sponsorships for aspects of the temporary exhibitions program.

Temporary exhibits will come from the following types of resources: partnering with sister institutions, traveling exhibit services such as the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibitions Service, exhibits from other museums, and local and regional private collections. The subject areas are as follow: natural sciences, cultural history, ecology and environmental stewardship, Flint Hills inspired art, and projects of local and regional interest (i.e. science fairs, children's art shows, performing arts). Discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kirkwood gave an overview of the new FHDC website, which will launch at the end of April. The City's I.S. Department has been working with her on the set up. Discussion was held.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on May 9, 2011.