

MINUTES  
FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER ADVISORY BOARD  
FHDC Conference Room  
November 14, 2011  
4:00 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board: Mr. Tom Warner, Mr. Ron Wilson, Ms. Sharon Brookshire, Ms. Kristin Brighton, Mr. Mike Haddock and Mr. Dave Kendall. Ms. Suzan Barnes was absent. Also present at the meeting were Mr. Curt Loupe, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Bob Workman, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; Ms. Melissa Kirkwood, Development Officer; Mr. Jared Bixby, Curator of Education, Sunset Zoo/Flint Hills Discovery Center, Mr. Roy Garrett, Exhibition/Facilities Manager and Ms. Susan Adams, Volunteer Coordinator/Administrative Assistant.

MINUTES

Mr. Warner called for the approval of the October minutes. It was moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Brookshire, that the October minutes be approved. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

CONSTRUCTION/EXHIBIT FABRICATION UPDATE

Mr. Workman gave an update that the project is about \$250,000 under the GMP and that the city has all ready executed a shared saving change order with McGown Gordon Construction in the amount of \$175,000. Mr. Workman explained that the exhibit budget was tight. The current exhibit construction contingency is approximately \$55,000. A recent determination by the City of Manhattan's Fire Department requires that an additional fireproofing coating be applied to the Underground Forest and associated scenic walls. Also, an incorrect soils mix was previously installed in the roof terrace planters. That material has been removed and the correct soil blend will soon be installed. There is no cost to the City for this sub-contractor error.

EPSCoR COLLOBARATION

Mr. Bixby presented a summary of a recent 2-day workshop with the Kansas EPSCoR collaborative group from KU, KSU, WSU, and Haskell Indian Nations University. The mission of EPSCoR is to assist the National Science Foundation (NSF) in its mission to strengthen education in science. The EPSCoR team is proposing a temporary exhibit that will be presented for approximately 24 months on the second floor of the FHDC. The exhibits would be targeted to a middle school age group. The brainstorming included the following categories for education modules to be utilized at the FHDC: Climate Science, Energy, Farmscape, and Pathways. EPSCoR will develop the 4 portable exhibit modules at no cost to FHDC and we will be the first to present the exhibit before it tours to other Kansas venues. The project will be used as a case study, and may be repeated with other research at a future time. Mr. Workman and Mr. Loupe discussed the potential for alternate views. Mr. Warner commented on the importance of keeping the message focused on science and also noted that this is a prestigious opportunity for the FHDC. Ms. Brighton pointed out that 24 months seemed like a long time to showcase the same subject. She suggested that maybe they could update or add additional items within that time period to keep it interesting for those who are revisiting the center. Mr. Workman commented on his hopes that this would stimulate other groups to present exhibit concepts to the FHDC staff and advisors for consideration.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

Mr. Workman announced that the Flint Hills Discovery Center was awarded a Kansas Humanities Council (KHC) grant for \$7,850 for the project, "Forces: The Making of Manhattan, Fort Riley and Kansas State University." This temporary exhibit is a collaborative partnership with the U.S. Calvary Museum, Ft. Riley; Riley County Historical Museum; KSU's Historic Costumes and Textile Museum and the KSU Archives. This show is scheduled to open in September 2012.

Mr. Workman also explained that the first exhibit to be held in the temporary exhibit gallery will be on the topic of the building of the Flint Hills Discovery Center. Currently a book is being developed utilizing intern Ms. Sarah Matherly. Mr. Garrett is coordinating the exhibition with the support of Ms. Margaret James. Mr. Garret is the FHDC Exhibits/Facilities Manager, and began his employment as of today. Ms. Matherly is currently interviewing key people who impacted the creation of the FHDC.

There were some questions about whether or not the museum exhibits would be ready for a mid April opening. Mr. Workman explained that the exhibits are to be installed and complete by March 15.

#### PLANNING FOR GRAND OPENING

Mr. Workman recommended the week of April 9-15 for a series of openings for the FHDC. Research has been done checking local calendars, to find a date that would accommodate the event and not have too many community conflicts. After checking calendars, the week of April 9-15 seems to be the best time for the opening. The tentative date for the Gala would be Friday, April 13. This event may be an opening reception at the FHDC, followed by a seated dinner at the new conference center. This event may be a fundraiser for the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation. Other events earlier that week may include a reception for the construction workers and their families, a reception for educators, and tours for the media. The public Grand Opening would then be held on Saturday, April 14. Some suggestions included involving local and state legislators as well as all community and city committee members that contributed to the development of the FHDC. Mr. Workman will follow up with the City Manager's Office regarding these proposed dates. Mr. Workman asked for the Advisory Board's assistance with the various opening events.

Further discussion was held on activities that might be held on the day of the Grand Opening. Some suggestions included inviting special groups, performing a ribbon cutting, music, and asking the Kaw Indian Nation to dance. Mr. Workman asked the Advisory Board members to come to the next meeting with further ideas for the opening.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Workman then discussed the recent creation of the FHDC Foundation. Founding Directors are Mr. Bruce Snead, President; Mr. Tom Warner, Vice President; Mr. Kent Glascock, Treasurer; Mr. Roger Reitz and Mr. Jack Ryan as Directors. Mr. Workman asked the Advisory Board to provide additional names for this board. We are especially seeking people from throughout the Flint Hills region.

Mr. Workman stated that a Memorandum of Understanding is currently being developed to define the formal relationship between the FHDC Foundation and the City of Manhattan.

A discussion was held on the relationship that the City of Manhattan has with the USD 383 with regard to free access for students to city facilities. School group admission of \$3 per student was set at the last City Commission meeting. Also at that meeting, commissioners requested staff do research into how other similar attractions around the state handle group school admission. Staff will report back to the Advisory Board on this subject as information develops.

Mr. Warner ended the meeting by thanking the FHDC team for all of their hard work.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be December 14, 2011 at the Flint Hills Discovery Center.