

MINUTES
FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER ADVISORY BOARD
FHDC Conference Room
April 9, 2012
4:00 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board: Mr. Tom Warner, Ms. Kristin Brighton, Ms Suzan Barnes, Mr. Ron Wilson, Mr. John Hund, Mr Mike Haddock and Ms. Sharon Brookshire. Also present were Mr. Bob Workman, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; Ms. Melissa Kirkwood, Development Officer; Mr. Curt Loupe, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Jim Sherow, Mayor and Ms. Susan Adams, Volunteer Coordinator/Administrative Assistant.

MINUTES

Mr. Warner called for the approval of the March minutes. It was moved by Ms. Barnes to approve the March minutes and Mr. Wilson seconded. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

GRAND OPENING

Mr. Workman gave an update on the schedule of events for the FHDC grand opening on Saturday, April 14. Governor Brownback is scheduled to speak at the presentation and the Kaw Nation is planning to be present for the blessing and dance. Kelley Hunt, singer, who is showcased with the last song in the Immersive Experience will be present on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Ms. Kirkwood distributed the schedule for Saturday and discussed the volunteer opportunities for the day. ESB Financial is providing the funding to make admission free for the day. They are also bringing a bus from Emporia and providing 30 volunteers.

Mr. Wilson distributed the schedule for the KS Western Music Association event for the Grand Opening day.

Mr. Workman gave an update on the Open House for Manhattan City Employees and their families. Around 300 attended the event within a two hour time frame. This event gave staff the opportunity to see how many people can comfortably fit in the Discovery Center over the course of one hour. With this experience, the staff plans to increase the number of timed tickets we will be able to distribute from 150 to 225 per hour.

Some of the upcoming events for Grand Opening week include: FHDC Foundation Preview Thursday, April 12; City recognition and "Thank You" event Friday, April 13; and Members Only Day Friday, April 13 from 10:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday, April 15 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

MEDIA BLITZ DAY

Mr. Workman gave an update on the coverage the Flint Hills Discovery Center received on our Media Blitz Day which was April 5th. Over 50 people attended. There was great participation by WIBW-Topeka, KMAN-Manhattan, and Kay McIntire with Kansas Public Radio. WIBW is presenting a 30 minute overview of the Flint Hills Discovery Center on Thursday, April 12 at 7:30pm.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

Mr. Workman announced that the FHDC Foundation hosted the board of the Symphony in the Flint Hills for a short preview on April 2nd.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Now that the project is operational, Mr. Workman suggested that the Advisory Board move its meetings to a minimum quarterly versus the current schedule of monthly meetings. The bylaws state one (1) meeting per

quarter is required. After discussion, the group agreed to reduce the number of meetings from the current ten (10) per year to five (5) per year. While the preference is for six (6) meetings each year, Ms. Brighton moved that the meeting dates change to June, September, November, January and March for the next twelve (12) months. Ms. Brookshire seconded the motion and on motion it passed 7-0.

GOVERNOR'S FLINT HILLS SUMMIT

Mr. Workman reviewed his participation in the Governor's Flint Hills Summit Working Group. The FHDC was the site for the April meeting, which is chaired by Linda Craighead, Asst. Secretary of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. Ms. Barnes, who is also a member of the Work Group, gave an update about the meeting and the purpose of the Work Group. All agreed it is important for the Flint Hills Discovery Center to maintain an active role in all matters related to the Flint Hills, especially as it relates to tourism.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Sherow suggested a policy be implemented for internships at the Flint Hills Discovery Center. Mr. Workman agreed to begin work on an internship policy to be reviewed by the board at a forthcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting will be June 11, 2012, at the Flint Hills Discovery Center.