

MINUTES
FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER ADVISORY BOARD
FHDC CONFERENCE ROOM
MAY 5, 2014
4:00 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board: Mr. Tom Warner, Mr. Ron Wilson, Mr. Mike Haddock, Ms. Christine Benne, Ms. Suzan Barnes. Also present were Fred W. Goss, FHDC Director; Ms. Jerri Hager, Development Officer; and Stephanie Budd, Office Assistant.

MINUTES

At 4:02 p.m., Mr. Warner called for the approval of the March 10 minutes as presented. It was moved by Mr. Haddock to approve the March minutes and Mr. Wilson seconded. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

FHDC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Goss recapped the recent event, Flint Hills Day, stating that the total attendance was 469. He noted that new memberships and renewal memberships were added on that day as well. Mr. Goss stated that he was pleased with programming and attendance, the support by the Manhattan CVB and local press. He mentioned that the FHDC staff debriefed the event earlier in the day and began planning for Flint Hills Day 2015. The staff is considering the possibility of a two-day event for 2015.

Ms. Barnes inquired about the timing of the 2015 event, asking if it would be planned around the grand opening time frame. Fred suggested that the event would be held in early May again, as to reach college students before they left for the summer and families before they left Manhattan on family vacations. Mr. Goss also suggested that a paid coordinator or special events company is a possibility for next year to set the agendas and coordinate the event details.

Mr. Haddock and Mr. Wilson expressed concern that the Kansas Sampler may have cut into attendance. Mr. Goss noted that next year the FHDC will partner with local hotels to reach those visiting Manhattan for special events during the time of Flint Hills Day. He noted that the raptor demonstration, Kaw Nation presentations, and musical performances by The Skirts were very popular. Mr. Goss stated that the total revenue of the day was around \$3,400.

Mr. Goss noted that Jerri Hager and Stephanie Budd have transitioned into managing the membership program. Mr. Goss then presented the new FHDC rack cards, funding courtesy of the Manhattan CVB and the design by New Boston Creative in Manhattan.

Mr. Warner recognized K-State as the recipient of the Friend of the Flint Hills at this year's FHDC Foundation annual Friend of the Flint Hills event.

Ron Wilson thanked the FHDC Foundation for sponsoring the state cowboy poetry contest in Alma, Kansas on June 13th.

“In the Dark” Traveling Exhibition

Fred Goss introduced the traveling exhibition, “In the Dark” as a 3,000 square foot exhibition with many interactive components. He estimated the cost to be approximately \$40,000. Mr. Goss anticipated a high visitation due to summer time. Mr. Goss explained that this exhibit would educate visitors about the Flint Hills and provide for an opportunity to understand other eco systems in the United States.

Ron Wilson noted Annie Wilson’s song about animals coming out at night and suggested including her in the opening of the exhibit.

Ms. Barnes motioned to approve “In the Dark” as a future exhibition at the Flint Hills Discovery Center. Mr. Haddock seconded. On vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Goss will process the paper work to bring In the Dark to FHDC in 2015.

FHDC Membership Program Update

Mr. Goss announced that some revisions were needed for the new FHDC membership program, as the RecTrac software has presented compatibility issues. In lieu of additional annual pass memberships being assigned to the new membership categories, the higher level donors (individual or corporate) would be provided additional one-time use passes to give to friends and colleagues.

Mr. Wilson motioned to approve the amendments to the original membership plan. Ms. Barnes seconded. On vote, the motioned was carried 5-0.

Mr. Goss explained that the amendments would now need to be presented to the city commission.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting will be 4 p.m. Monday, June 9, 2014.