

FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

January 12, 2015

4:00 PM

Present were the following members of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board: Ms. Suzan Barnes, Ms. Christine Benne, Mr. Mike Haddock, Mr. John Hund, Mr. Ron Wilson, and Ms. Rose Bacon. Also present was Fred W. Goss, FHDC Director.

MINUTES

At 4:05 p.m., Ms. Barnes called for the approval of the November minutes as presented. Mr. Hund moved to approve the November minutes. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

FHDC Director's Report

- 2015 New Exhibitions
 - **K is for Kansas:** on exhibition from January 24 through March 22, 2015 and will be replacing Animal Secrets. Younger visitors and their families can discover who Kansans are with a special Kansas alphabet representing the countless people, places, things, plants and animals which make our state a special place.
 - **Save the Last Dance:** on exhibition January 14 through May 17, 2015. Noppadol Paothong, photographer of the award winning book *Save the Last Dance* will be bringing his artwork to us in February. The book and exhibition focus on the native grassland grouse throughout North America and the Greater Prairie Chicken located throughout the Flint Hills. *Save the Last Dance* will be replacing the current FORCES II exhibition. Mr. Paothong also has a book available in our gift store.
 - **Wild Weather:** an exhibition from the Evansville Museum in Evansville, Indiana which will be on display March 28, 2015 through May 17, 2015. This exhibit will teach guests about regional and local weather patterns. The exhibit has hands-on interaction stations where visitors can explore science concepts such as evaporation, condensation, heat, pressure, tornados, electric charges and climate.
 - **In the Dark:** a national traveling exhibit from the Cincinnati Museum Center; will be displayed during the summer, May 23, 2015 through September 20, 2015. Visiting *In the Dark*, guests will experience and explore three ecoregions via electronic, mechanical and computer interactives, immersive dioramas and lifelike models. Featured ecosystems are: a cave in Kentucky, a Louisiana Swamp and the Sonoran Desert.
 - **Flint Hills Masters:** October 3, 2015 through January 17, 2016. The exhibition is a partnership with Jay Nelson of Strecker-Nelson Art Gallery in Manhattan and a follow up to 2013's "Through Artist's Eyes" exhibition organized in collaboration with the same gallery.

- Mr. Goss related the discounted admissions days for 2015 as a way to provide an incentive for local residents to visit the FHDC.

2015 Discounted & Free Admission Days:

- January 31, 2015, Saturday: End of Forces Exhibit, \$2 discount on regular adult admission
 - May 9, 2015, Saturday: End of Save the Last Dance Exhibit, \$2 discount on regular adult admission, Military free admission (reimbursed by FHDC Foundation)
 - August 30-September 5, Sunday-Saturday: Wildcat Week partner with Sunset Zoo, \$6 admission for KSU students, faculty with valid KSU ID
 - September 13, 2015, Sunday: Family Day and last week of In the Dark: Free admission
 - November 11, 2015, Wednesday: Veterans Day, Military free admission (reimbursed by FHDC Foundation)
- Staff: we are at full staff with these positions and staff members:
 - Stephen Bridenstine, Public Program Coordinator
 - Daniel Schapaugh, Education Specialist History and Culture
 - Megan Berry, Marketing Coordinator
 - Flint Hills Festival: Sunday, April 26th: Music and food are the primary features and 2015 this will be the second year of the event. Fred will relate the name of the principal music act at the March advisory board meeting.

FHDC Budgets

Mr. Wilson brought up questions about FHDC's budget, regarding what is being said and written in some print media outlets. Mr. Goss passed out a 2014 year end budget sheet for the FHDC and discussed in detail last year's actual budget vs. 2013's budget.

Based on recommendations from the community and advisory board, the FHDC will host six exhibitions in 2015 with the goal to raise awareness, admissions and membership revenues with these additional exhibitions and programs. Education revenues year-to-year were higher as were membership revenues. Facility rental fees were above the budgeted projection. Mr. Goss stated that he will be working with Finance to be able to provide 2016's budget at next Advisory Board Meeting.

K-State Watch Party

Mr. Haddock inquired about the results of the K-State Watch Party. Mr. Goss stated that there were 35 guests in attendance. Taking into account the overall seating and size of the screen in the Immersive Theater guests congregated on the top row of seating. If this type of event is done in the future it would work better with a sponsor or guaranteed audience such as a KSU alumni group. The primary concern is the issue of comfortable seating.

Committee Report(s)

Ms. Barnes stated there were no committee reports.

New Business

The Advisory Board discussed the nomination of the new chair and vice chair for the advisory board. Mr. Hund nominated Ms. Suzan Barnes as Chair; Ms. Bacon seconded the motion, motion carried 6-0. Ms. Bacon nominated Mr. Ron Wilson as Vice Chair. Ms. Benne seconded the motion in favor; motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Old Business

Mr. Hund stated that there is a proposal for an industrial wind power facility that would be within the foot print of the Flint Hills and that public comments will be heard today before the county commission in Marian County, Kansas. (There is currently statutory protection of the Flint Hills from industrial wind power development.) Mr. Hund will keep the advisory board informed of any developments per the Marion County hearing and testimony.

Adjournment

Ms. Barnes called the meeting to an end at 4:55 p.m.