

Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board Minutes
January 11, 2016
4:00 pm

Present were the following members of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board: Chair Ms. Suzan Barnes, Ms. Christine Benne, Ms. Rose Bacon, Ms. Larie Schoap and Mr. John Hund. Mr. Fred W. Goss, FHDC Director, Ms. Marie Martin, FHDC Foundation, and Ms. Brianna Schmitz, FHDC Guest Services Manager/Volunteer Coordinator were also present.

Welcome

At 4:00 p.m., Ms. Barnes called the meeting to order.

Minutes

At 4:06 p.m., Ms. Bacon moved to approve the November minutes and Ms. Benne seconded. On vote, the motion carried 5-0.

2016 Advisory Board Officer Selection

Ms. Bacon suggested the FHDC Advisory officers remain the same as 2015 if the officers agreed. At 4:12, Mr. Hund motioned that we reinstate the same officers as last year and Ms. Benne seconded. On vote, the motion carried 5-0.

FHDC Staff Report

Introduction FHDC Volunteer Coordinator/Guest Services Manager, Ms. Brianna Schmitz.

Brianna shared some of her initial ideas on augmenting the FDHC volunteer program. Brianna will work with volunteers to develop and implement target specific floor programs. These are new volunteer experiences are intended to add to the understanding and knowledge of FHDC exhibits and more highly engage the guest in their first or repeat visit to FHDC. Brianna will work with Stephen Bridenstine, FHDC Public Program Coordinator, to research and vet these programs with the FHDC education team and coordinate the new experiences. Brianna also plans to work with KSU College of Education to establish summer of 2016 education Internships that give hands on experiences for the KSU students on site at FHDC. She also plans to expand volunteers by utilizing high school students that are looking for community service volunteer hours. The fall of 2016 is the calendar target to add the students for temporary volunteers.

Ms. Schoap suggested we look at 4-H youth members to volunteer for some of these proposed programs. Mr. Hund and Ms. Bacon said these floor programs provide unlimited ideas. Ms. Benne suggested we contact the zoo as they have similar programs and might provide good information for us to get started. Ms. Schoap suggested we ask if visitors if they would like a volunteer or employee to guide them through the facility to enrich their experience.

Flint Hills Tourism Coalition Meeting

Mr. Goss attended the November 20th Flint Hills Tourism Coalition meeting at the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene. Those attending reviewed the FHTC's 2016 marketing budget. The FHTC

serves as a grass roots coalition to serve the 22 county Flint Hills area to promote tourism and related experiences.

New FHDC Web Site

Meetings have continued for a new FHDC website with Civic Plus. A planned completion date for the new website is January 21, 2016. The launch will not include the MAPS project content which should be available on the new FHDC website in February 2016.

IMAX Theater

Plans are still in place for a fall 2016 opening of the *IMAX* Theater at the Manhattan Town Center. We have been partnering with Manhattan Town Center Marketing Director, Jeff Sutton, on a discount admission voucher for Town Center customers. The voucher provides for \$2.00 off two adult admissions and \$2.00 off of up to five youth admissions.

Share the Story Grant through the FHDC Foundation

FHDC education staff has completed the Share the Story grant having covered all 22 Flint Hills counties.

December 8th City Commission Work Session

Parks and Recreation department head, Eddie Eastes, and Mr. Goss presented year end reports for aquatics operations and the FHDC. Overall, the comments by the city commission were positive for the facility. The *Breakfast with Santa* event and *Family New Year's Eve* were both well received by the Commission.

KTA Scenic Overlook Groundbreaking

Governor Brownback and KTA staff celebrated a groundbreaking at mile marker 111/cattle pens exit on the Kansas Turnpike on December 18. Mr. Goss attended the event and helped with the groundbreaking. The overlook construction is slated to start soon with a planned completion of next fall to allow travelers to safely pull off of the turnpike and view the Flint Hills.

Bob Krause's passing

Mr. Goss attended the service for Bob Krause on December 21, 2015 at KSU.

Partnerships

Tallgrass Tales

FHDC and the Manhattan Public Library have partnered together to establish a new children's story time as of January 8, 2016. The partnership allows us to introduce the FHDC along with its programs, exhibits, and activities to a new and diverse audience. *Tallgrass Tales* dates are the first Friday of the month at 10:30 a.m.

Kansas Cowboy State Poetry Contest

FHDC will be the 2016 host the annual *Kansas Cowboy Poetry* contest on June 10, 2016. FHDC Advisory Board member Ron Wilson worked with the steering committee to bring the annual event to Manhattan and FHDC.

Reel Paddling Film Festival

FHDC will serve as the host for the 2016 Reel Paddling Film Festival sponsored by the Manhattan CVB on April 15, 2016.

FHDC Foundation Supported Events

Breakfast with Santa guest count: 323

Family New Year's Eve guest count: 208

Veteran's Day guest count: 150 guests (\$846.00 in admissions)

2016 Exhibitions as Approved by the City Commission

Spring – Summer 2016

- ***How People Make Things*** (January 30, 2016 - May 1, 2016)
- ***A View From Space*** (January 16, 2016 - May 1, 2016)
- ***Amazing Dinosaurs!*** (May 14, 2016 - September 11, 2016)

January FHDC Events

Kansas Day celebration on January 28 & 29, 2016

How People Make Things member's preview January 29, 2016

Proposed CIP Project Lists (Capital Improvement Project)

- Reader rails on the FHDC terrace that extends to the ground level to expand visitor's knowledge of the plantings on the terrace.
- 24 passenger bus for the FHDC to transport the adult/youth visitors and campers to places such as the Flint Hills.
- Large format printer to handle all graphics in-house and save money long term.
- Mr. Goss asked the FHDC advisory board if they have any other suggestions for the CIP lists and encouraged them to let us know.

Committee Reports

Ms. Bacon said we have raised \$1,200 of the \$18,000 needed to improve the voices exhibit at the FHDC.

Ms. Benne requested that a timeline and cost for the FHDC major exhibits be added to the Advisory Board Agenda. Mr. Goss said he would add the upcoming exhibits along with the ***Go See It!*** programs to the agenda.

Ms. Benne suggested we contact, Ms. Sharon Davis, with the Home Baking Association for the ***Maize: Mysteries of Ancient Grain*** upcoming exhibit. Ms. Davis works with the KS Wheat Commission to show visitors different ways to bake with grains. Ms. Davis might have ideas for this exhibit as well as school programs.

Public Comment

Ms. Martin shared how shocked and saddened by the passing of Bob Krause, supporter of the FHDC. She described him as interesting, kind, generous and a wonderful person who will be missed. She also shared what a significant impact he had on the FHDC with the naming gift by Bob and his wife Marty Vanier in 2015 for the Immersive Experience Theater now titled the Horizon Ranch Flint Hills Immersive Experience.

Ms. Schoap announced that ***ESB Financial*** will sponsor the FHDC ***Amazing Dinosaurs!*** exhibit this summer.

Adjournment

At 5:07 p.m., Ms. Benne moved and Ms. Schoap seconded that we adjourn the meeting. On vote, 5-0 meeting was adjourned.