

Minutes
Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board
FHDC Conference Room
March 14, 2016
4:00 pm

Present were the following members of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board: Chair Ms. Suzan Barnes, Vice Chair Mr. Ron Wilson, Ms. Christine Benne, Ms. Larie Schoap, Dr. Emily Dringenberg and Mr. John Hund. Ms. Susan Adams, FHDC Director and Ms. Marie Martin, FHDC Foundation were also present.

Welcome

At 4:00 p.m., Ms. Barnes called the meeting to order. Dr. Emily Dringenberg, new Advisory Board member, gave an introduction of herself.

Minutes

Ms. Benne moved to approve the January minutes and Mr. Hund seconded. On vote, the motion carried 6-0.

Old Business:

Ms. Benne commented on the events/exhibit handout was the beginning of what the board was asking for in regard to a schedule of future events. They would also like to see an exhibit schedule from the time the facility opened with exhibit name, dates, cost, and attendance numbers. Ms. Adams said she would begin working on that and provide the data at the next meeting.

FHDC Report

A welcome was given to Ms. Susan Adams serving as the new Director of the Flint Hills Discovery Center.

Website

Ms. Adams shared that the FHDC new website is up and the staff are working with Civic Plus to improve some of the graphics. All in all the site looks very good and believe it will be easier for visitors to maneuver and locate information.

RecTrac

Parks & Recreation department just completed an update to the RecTrac system from a software program to a web base version. This system is what the FHDC uses to complete all

financial transactions. (Admissions, rentals, activities, gift store) The FHDC will continue to focus on the issue that visitors have when visiting the web option-WebTrac, to upgrade their membership choices. Once the RecTrac upgrade is complete, the membership concerns will be addressed with the company-Vermont Systems.

Monthly Operations Report

Attendance for the months of January and February 2016 were 6,169 visitors and \$70,813 in revenue.

Exhibits

Ft. Riley has approached the FHDC to host an exhibit showcasing the celebration of the Big Red One/1st Infantry Division 100th anniversary. They proposed a summer 2017 exhibit. We have since discussed moving the exhibit to fall 2017, and the Fort is in favor of the change. This exhibit would be funded completely by the military budget. The FHDC will be working closely with Ft. Riley's design team to develop themes and interactive experience for visitors. Mr. Wilson agreed that moving it to the fall 2017 would serve as a better time, especially since we could program with Veteran's Day. Ms. Benne volunteered to assist with discussions between the FHDC and the Fort as she is very involved at Ft. Riley. Additional comments included: military vehicles outside the building, Color Guard on Veterans Day, and soldiers scheduled to work at the exhibit to meet and greet. The board agreed that a more family friendly summer exhibit is what they would like to see for 2017.

Additional comments regarding exhibits was given by Ms. Schoap, she feels like the Flint Hills Master exhibit ran too long. She would like for the exhibit team to consider that in the future when they are planning.

Options for a possible summer exhibit were handed out and discussed; Words of Wisdom and Human Plus may be possibilities for summer 2017. Both exhibits would need a supplement for the Mezzanine area. The FHDC exhibit team will review other possibilities and return to the board in May with a proposed exhibit.

Another future exhibit is the Bison exhibit, which was at the Symphony in the Flint Hills a few years ago.

Upcoming events

Ms. Adams distributed handouts for Meet the Makers the week of spring break. Local craftsman will be showcasing their skills to visitors. The exhibits will be held in the atrium and are free to the public. Also distributed was the flyer to promote Military Appreciation Day, Saturday, April 9, 10am-5pm. This is a day sponsored by the FHDC Foundation in which any military person and their family (with ID) enters the facility free for the day.

FHDC Foundation Report

Ms. Martin reminded everyone of the 2016 Friend of the Flint Hills recognition is on Saturday, April 16th with former Senator Nancy Kassebaum being recognized. Ms. Martin announced that Dave Kendall's film, Flint Hills Love Story, will be hosted at the Volland Store on Saturday, March 12 to promote his project and inform the audience of his work and the opportunity to be a contributing sponsor.

Ms. Martin also explained that the Map Project that the foundation is sponsoring is going well. The goal is to have a Flint Hills regional map placed in every school in the region.

Committee Reports

Ms. Barnes explained that there were no reports and that at the current time they had no standing committees. Ms. Adams will look into the need for that being on the agenda.

Public Comment

Mr. Wilson commented that the Kansas Cowboy Poetry contest is being held at the FHDC on June 10, 2016.

Ms. Barnes shared that Cottonwood Falls has been chosen for 2017 to host the Smithsonian exhibit, Water Way. This is being provided by the Kansas Humanities Grant.

Adjournment

Mr. Wilson moved and Ms. Benne seconded that we adjourn the meeting. On vote, 6-0 meeting was adjourned.