

Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board Meeting
March 13th, 2017
4:00 p.m.

Present were the following members of Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board, Ms. Rose Bacon, Mr. John Hund, Ms. Larie Schoap, Ms. Christine Benne, Ms. Emily Dringenberg, and Ms. Vicki Patton. Also present were Director, Ms. Susan Adams, Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation, Ms. Marie Martin, Flint Hill Discovery Center Marketing Coordinator, Molly Kurtz and two K-State students as public guests.

Welcome

At 4:02 p.m., Ms. Bacon called the meeting to order. The Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board introduced themselves and welcomed Ms. Vicki Patton, new FHDC Advisory Board member.

Minutes

Ms. Larie Schoap moved to approve the minutes from the January 9th meeting and Ms. Benne seconded. On vote, the motioned carried 6-0.

Marketing Presentation for 5th Year Celebration by Molly Kurtz, Marketing Coordinator

The Flint Hills Discovery Center inspires people to celebrate, explore and care for the Flint Hills. Through our five years of existence, we have created an engaging and educational atmosphere for the Manhattan community and the entire Flint Hills region to embrace and call home. To celebrate the five year anniversary, we'll be hosting five weeks of special programs and events culminating with the Flint Hills Festival. Our annual Flint Hills Festival is our largest and most impactful event each year, with over 3,000 expected guests in 2017.

How does it make you feel when you open your eyes and see miles of uninterrupted skyline? What does it feel like to take the first step out into the prairie? At this year's Flint Hills Festival, we're inviting you to come feel the Flint Hills. Every booth and activity at "Fest" has an educational and interactive value so that the entire community can learn something about this unique region. Here are just some of the many hands-on experiences guests can enjoy at Flint Hills Festival.

- Live Music
- Beer and Wine Samples
- Food Truck Vendors
- Access to the FHDC Exhibits
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Obstacle Course
- Weaving and Spinning
- Wood Turning
- Glass Fusing
- Archery

Five Year Anniversary + Flint Hills Festival = Five Weeks of Celebration

As a thank you for the last five years, each week we're focusing on giving a little something extra to a different section of the community.

Five Year Anniversary, April 14

To help us celebrate our fifth anniversary, guests can enjoy cake, live music and \$5 admission for adults all weekend.

Week 1: Feel the Earth, April 17 – 23

The Flint Hills is the last remaining 4% of the Tallgrass Prairie. This week, we're celebrating Earth Day and the gift of our breathtaking ecoregion through outdoor excursions and special programs like Family Outdoor Adventure Night.

Week 2: Feel the Unity, April 24 – 30

Often considering ourselves the gateway to the Flint Hills, our doors are always open to each and every member of our vibrant Manhattan community. This week, we're embracing the entire community with local school partnerships and fundraisers.

Week 3: Feel the Freedom, May 1-7

Although we can never thank them enough, this week we'll be serving those who serve our country. On May 6th, Military Appreciation Day, we open our doors free of charge to the active duty members, veterans and their families.

Week 4: Feel the Future, May 8-14

Congratulations Wildcats! To celebrate Kansas State graduation, anyone with Kansas State ID will receive \$5 admission all weekend. Now get out there and change the world!

Week 5: Flint Hills, May 20

This week, we'll be getting the whole community together for Flint Hills Festival. Here, we offer unique, interactive experiences that will truly inspire you to feel the Flint Hills.

Old Business

Ms. Adams explained that we have reached out to Boston Productions about a price estimate on possible changes to the Voices exhibit. We are still waiting to hear back from them and schedule a date for their service visit.

Ms. Schoap asked if the sack dresses are a part of the Maize exhibit. Ms. Adams said that they serve as a supplement to the exhibit. The exhibit was designed by Marla Day, K-State Costume & Textile Design Department.

FHDC Report

Attendance/Financial Report

The financial and attendance report to date was distributed.

Employee Update

The interview team completed four interviews for the Asst. Director/Development position and received over (30) applications.

Strategic Plan

This was not distributed and Ms. Adams is working on the report and will send it out electronically when complete.

Outreach/Special Events

- Gift Store Book signing with George Frazier, *The Last Wild Places in Kansas*: (30) visitors in attendance
- Sold pre-sale tickets for the *Symphony in the Flint Hills* the week of February 21st – 24th. The Symphony is in Geary County on Saturday, June 10, 2017.
- Partnering with KS Cowboy Poetry Contest event which will be held at the FHDC on, Friday, June 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. This event will be open to the public at no charge.
- Plans are being finalized for the 5th year celebration which is being held on, Friday, April 14th. Activities will be happening all day but there will be an official program at 1:00 p.m. in the FHDC atrium with Mayor Usha Reddi, Mr. Bob Workman, Mr. Bruce Snead and Mr. Ron Fehr being present to speak about our past and future. Music, hands on activities in the building, cake at 1:00 p.m., memorabilia, and future plans. All of this begins the kick off for the next five weeks leading up to the Flint Hills Festival on, Saturday, May 20.

Exhibits

January 21st - May 14th, 2017

To My Plate and Beyond and Maize: Mysteries of an Ancient Grain

Members opening for these exhibits were on January 21st, (157) members in attendance

- Sponsored by Via Christi Health
- Via Christi catered the food with a healthy flair
- Wonderful comments on the food being healthy and the display's were very creative

May 27 - August 6, 2017

Design Zone explores mathematical concepts like patterns, variables, scale, slope, and ratios used by artists, architects, engineers, musicians, and other innovators.

Brain Teasers features a collection of (20) hands on puzzles designed to develop problem solving skills and plenty of fun. They are designed for all ages.

August 26, 2017 - January 14, 2018

Duty First: 100 Years of the Big Red One. This exhibit will be funded completely by the US Army Center of Military History and Ft. Riley.

Education Department

- Kansas Day, Sunday, January 29th: (174) in attendance
- STEM night, Thursday, February 9th: (392) in attendance
 - Event was FREE to all students and their families who attended Bergman, Northview or Ogden schools
 - Funding from the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, USD 383

- Tallgrass Tour Bus, March 4th in Marysville & Alcove Springs: (20) registered

Building updates

Week of February 20th – 23rd the terrazzo floors were stripped of the wax and are currently being brought back to their original state. The goal is to have all updates accomplished before the 5th year celebration on April 14th.

FHDC Foundation Report

Swanson House Consulting estimates the fundraising campaign for the FHDC Foundation will take two to four years to complete.

MAPS Project Dedication

The Flint Hills Educational Map in the Schools Project dedicated three map displays on Tuesday, March 14th, at Manhattan Technical College, Kansas State University Student Union and Throckmorton Hall on the Kansas State campus. The Foundation served as fiscal agent for this project.

Dave Kendall Project

Dave Kendall's documentary film project about the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve's history and development was a success and the FHDC Foundation will act as fiscal agent for his next project to be announced soon. The second film will also focus on the Flint Hills region.

Flint Hills Summer Roundup Concert

Jim Farrell of the Diamond W Wrangler Band approached FHDC and the Foundation about donating the Band's time to help promote the non-profit organizations that focus on the Flint Hills region. FHDC and the Foundation were asked to organize the event. Proceeds of the benefit concert would be divided among four 501(c)(3) entities that will be invited to participate. The concert will be held at Albert Taylor Hall, at Emporia State University, June 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Friend of the Flint Hills Event

The Symphony in the Flint Hills will be honored as the recipient of the 2017 Friend of the Flint Hills recognition on Saturday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. at the FHDC.

Grow Green Day

The FHDC Foundation will participate in the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation Grow Green Day on Friday, April 21, 2017. Funds raised will support the Flint Hills Discovery Center Youth Education Endowment Fund which is held by the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation.

New Business

Proposed Exhibits

- *Bison*: This exhibit will be in the Tallgrass Gallery and it is presented by the National Buffalo Association
- *Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century*: This exhibit will be in a Mezzanine and is presented by the International Wolf Center in Minnesota.

Ms. Bacon asked if we could get more written materials about the Wolves and Wild Lands exhibit to understand how the wolves are being presented. Ms. Bacon said if the information is factual she is in agreement with the exhibit. Her concern was for the ranching community and the effect wolves have

on ranches as they kill livestock. Ms. Adams agreed to gather more information about the exhibit and email it to the FHDC Advisory Board. The board agreed to take a vote by email regarding approval of the exhibit.

Ms. Schoap asked if it was appropriate to double motion to research more about Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century before we cast a vote and also pass the Bison exhibit. Mr. Hund agreed it was appropriate and seconded. The vote carried 6-0.

After the Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board had the opportunity to review more information about Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century Exhibit, the board took a vote via email and the vote carried 7-0.

5th Year Anniversary

Ms. Adams stated that she would appreciate members of the Advisory board having a presence at the 5th year anniversary event on Friday, April 14.

Public Comment

FHDC Advisory Board Bylaws

Ms. Adams has a conflict with the next FHDC Advisory Board which is scheduled for May 8th and she proposed moving the meeting to May 1st. The board agreed to reschedule the next meeting for May 1st, 2017 at the same scheduled time.

Adjournment

At 5:10 p.m., Ms. Benne moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Patton seconded. On vote, the motioned carried 6-0.