

Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board Meeting
May 1, 2017
4:00 p.m.

Present were the following members of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board, Mr. Ron Wilson, Mr. John Hund, Ms. Larie Schoap, Ms. Christine Benne, Ms. Emily Dringenberg, and Ms. Vicki Patton. Also present were Director, Ms. Susan Adams, Assistant Director/Development, Ms. Katharine Hensler, and Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation Director, Ms. Marie Martin.

Welcome

At 4:00 p.m., Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order. Ms. Adams introduced our new FHDC Assistant Director/Development, Katharine Hensler.

Minutes

Ms. Benne moved to approve the minutes from March with the correction of the word “exhibit” after Wolves and Wildlands in the new business section. Ms. Schoap seconded and the motion and the vote carried 6-0.

Old Business

Strategic Plan Update: (2017-2021)

Ms. Adams emailed the Advisory Board before the meeting an update to the Strategic Plan by goal, department and staff responsible for the actions. A discussion was held hitting the highlights of the work that has been made towards the goals over the past 5 months. Ms. Adams will plan to update again at the November meeting.

Ms. Schoap mentioned the growmanhattan.com survey should help the FHDC. They are expecting 2500 responses to the survey. She encouraged everyone to complete the survey.

FHDC Report

Attendance/Financial Report

Report for year to date from April financials and attendance

Employee Update

Katharine Hensler has been hired as Asst. Director/Development and began her position on April 17

Strategic Plan

Review update on the Strategic Plan by goal, department, accomplishments and dates.

Outreach/Special Events

- April 14: 5th Year Anniversary, presentations by Ron Fehr, Bob Workman, Bruce Snead, Usha Reddi. Very successful event with approx (60) guests in attendance and wonderful media coverage. Ms. Adams thanked all that attended.
- April 17th: began the five week celebration leading up to the Flint Hills Festival on May 20th
 - Feel the Earth, April 17th -23rd: Celebrated with special programs and Earth Day giveaways
 - Feel the Unity, April 24th -30th: Bluemont student presentations and voting for best design

- Feel the Freedom, May 1st – 7th: May 6th, Military Appreciation Day (free admission for all with military ID) Ms. Adams stated we expect more than last year and last year we had about 1000 in attendance.
- Feel the Future, May 8th -14th: \$5.00 admission rate for anyone with a KSU ID, May 12th - 14th
- Feel the Flint Hills, May 20th: Flint Hills Festival
- April 15th: Friend of the Flint Hills event honoring Symphony in the Flint Hills (80) in attendance

Ms. Benne departed the meeting at this time.

Exhibits

January 21-May 14, 2017:

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

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 (21) hands-on puzzles designed to develop problem-solving skills and plenty of fun. It is designed for all ages.

Members Only event: Friday, May 26th, 5:30p.m. - 7:00p.m.

August 26, 2017-January 14, 2018:

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

Education Department

- Makers Fair during Spring Break: Woodturners, Pottery, Jewelry, Painters
- Prairie Chicken Booming trips: (4) trips with (28) participants
- Tallgrass Tour Bus: KSU International Students, went on Council Grove Tour
- Bluemont School: 6th grade student exhibit presentations on April 21st

Building updates

- Week of April 24th -28th, replaced carpet in the classroom with commercial vinyl flooring
- Boston Productions Inc. visited on April 25th & 26th to update all audio visual displays annually. FHDC Foundation wants to update audio visual within five years. Mr. Hund asked what the cost is and if we have to use Boston Productions? Ms. Adams stated that we do not have to use them and she is interested in using CED out of Kentucky. Ms. Schoap asked how we stay ahead of technology. Ms. Adams said we would have to contract with an exhibit company to determine what path we would take. Ms. Adams informed them that the leadership team is going AAM to see what companies and exhibits are out there.

FHDC Foundation Report

The Foundation's annual Friends of the Flint Hills event took place on, April 18th, and the Symphony in the Flint Hills was honored. Approximately 80 guests attended the event. Ms. Martin thanked all from the Advisory Board who attended.

April 21st, the FHDC Foundation participated for the first time in the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation Grow Green Day with 51 other non-profit organizations. The FHDC Foundation received \$2800 in donations, these funds were matched by GMCF with an additional \$1400, and the Foundation also won an hourly drawing of \$100 for a total receipt of \$4300. This money will go to the Flint Hills Discovery Center Youth Endowment Fund at GMCF. When the account is large enough to sustain itself the funds from this account will be used for youth educational programs at the Discovery Center.

June 24th, is the Flint Hills Summer Roundup Concert in Emporia. The event will be held at Albert Taylor Hall at Emporia State University at 7:00 p.m. Jim Hoy will make a special appearance and be the opening act for the Diamond W Wranglers Band. This is a fundraising event and three other Flint Hills non-profit organizations will be participating with the Foundation.

New Business

Zoo in You exhibit proposal is bi-lingual. Ms. Adams stated we will have the potential to partner with physicians. While attending the AAM convention, Ms. Adams said they would keep their eye out for other options for exhibits. She said the FHDC will not always be able to support the mission for exhibits. Mr. Wilson stated that he liked the scientific nature of the exhibit. Mr. Hund agreed. Mr. Schoap moved to approve the exhibit unless something better comes along and Mr. Hund seconded. On vote, the motioned carried 5-0.

Ms. Adams asked the board about the potential of decreasing the amount of board meetings. She asked the board if their needs would be met with fewer meetings. Ms. Adams said she was flexible and could go either way. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hund felt quarterly meetings should work. Mr. Wilson said if something came up, Ms. Adams could email the board. Mr. Hund moved to approve quarterly meeting and Ms. Patton seconded. On vote, the motion carried 5-0. Ms. Schoap asked when the next meeting would take place. The FHDC Board and Ms. Adams decided to remove the September meeting and finish off the year with a July 10th and November 13th meetings.

Ms. Dringenberg announced that she is resigning from the board as she has accepted a position at Ohio State and this would be her last meeting. So this will give an opening to a Manhattan community member to apply for the position. The Mayor will appoint the next board member from the inquiries that are submitted to the city. Mr. Wilson said it is good to cover all demographics with board members. Ms. Adams reminded board that they can encourage anyone to apply. Mr. Hund said it would be nice to have a board member with school age children.

Public Comment

Mr. Wilson announced on June 10th will by the Symphony in the Flint Hills in Geary County. June 9th, the Cowboy Poetry Contest will take place at the FHDC. The winners will receive beautiful trophy buckles.

Adjournment

At 5:16 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.