

**Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board Meeting**  
**July 10, 2017**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Present were the following members of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board, Mr. Ron Wilson, Mr. John Hund, Mr. John Pecoraro, Ms. Larie Schoap, Ms. Christine Benne, Ms. Vicki Patton, and Ms. Rose Bacon. Also present were FHDC Director, Susan Adams, and FHDC Foundation President, Bruce Snead. Guests in attendance were representatives of Friends of Konza Prairie, Karen Hummel and Diane Barker.

**Welcome**

At 4:00 p.m., Mr. Wilson welcomed everyone and meeting participants to introduce themselves to the new FHDC Advisory Board member, John Pecoraro. Mr. Wilson then called the meeting to order.

**Minutes**

Ms. Schoap moved to approve the May minutes and Mr. Hund seconded. The vote carried 6-0. Ms. Bacon was not present for the vote.

**FHDC Report**

*Staff Update*

Stephen Bridenstine received a position title change from Public Program Coordinator to Curator of Education due to the restructure of the Education Department.

(5) Staff members attended the National Convention for American Alliance of Museums in St. Louis, Mo. Ms. Adams stated while the team did not find a replacement for *Zoo In You* exhibit, it was a wonderful experience. The team divided and conquered the convention in their respective areas of focus.

Ms. Adams invited FHDC Advisory Board to attend the Chamber after Hours to be hosted at the Flint Hills Discovery Center on, Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Outreach/Special Events*

- **Military Appreciation Day**, Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>: (216) in attendance, admissions were reimbursed by FHDC Foundation.
- **Flint Hills Festival**, Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>: (2,600+) in attendance.
- **Cowboy Poetry Contest**, Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>: (123) in attendance
- **National Day of the Cowboy**, scheduled for Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- **Community Day**, scheduled for Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

*Exhibits*

**January 21<sup>st</sup> - May 14, 2017:**

*To My Plate and Beyond/Maize: Mysteries of an Ancient Grain* closed with attendance at (17,961)

## May 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

“BRO” show - Big Red One exhibit from Ft. Riley was on display during Military Appreciation week.

## May 27<sup>th</sup> - August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017:

### *Design Zone & Brain Teasers*

- Members Opening event: Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., (216) in attendance

## August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - January 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 Museum.
- Members Opening event: Friday, August 25 from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

## *Education Department*

School group field trips (K-12): Attendance comparisons

	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>
School groups (Jan - May)	1,487	2,717
School groups (April - May)	1,239	1,757

- *Tallgrass Bus Tour*: Trip to Chase County, Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, (23) in attendance
- *Go See It! Lectures*
  - **Earthquakes in Kansas**, May 20<sup>th</sup>, (42) in attendance
  - **Kansas Extremes: Dust Bowl Deluge**, June 15<sup>th</sup>, (11) in attendance
- *Astronomy Night*, Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, (278) in attendance
  - Partnership with KSU Professor of Physics, Chris Sorensen
  - Next opportunity is July 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor terrace (**free event**)
  - Partnering with K-State for the Total Solar Eclipse on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, visit KSU website to sign up to ride the bus.
- Education Department staffing: (2) interns
  - KSU Education intern focused on summer camps and educational programs
  - KSU Interpretive intern developing permanent interpretation for the terrace and native landscaping.

## *Building updates*

Hours for the building changed on Memorial Day to the following times:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## FHDC Foundation Report

Mr. Snead spoke on behalf of the FHDC foundation and explained the foundation was founded at the same time as the FHDC. The purpose of the FHDC Foundation is to sustain the FHDC.

Last year's FHDC Foundation projects:

- **Flint Hills MAPS Projects:** have placed over (200) Flint Hills maps across schools in the Flint Hills to help the students and faculty better understand the Flint Hills. Teachers continue to have access to Flint Hills educational materials on the FHDC website.
- **Dave Kendall's documentary film project:** Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve's history and development was a success. Mr. Kendall is working on a second movie that will talk about Women in the Flint Hills.

The Foundation has developed a newsletter, VISTA that FHDC supporters will be receiving. It is a tool to raise awareness of the support they have continued to give the FHDC and their plan to build a capital campaign over the next few years.

Flint Hills Summer Roundup Concert had to be cancelled because of low ticket sales. The FHDC Foundation was given permission to allocate the \$4000 sponsorship towards another event.

## New Business

### *Hands on Harley Davidson Exhibit, Summer 2021*

Ms. Adams presented a proposal for the exhibit, Hands on Harley Davidson. This exhibit could be supported by the local Harley Davidson businesses and has a lot of appeal for riding through the Flint Hills. There have been a variety of articles written about this subject and there is a large amount of interest in promoting that aspect in the region. Mr. Hund moved to approve Hands-On Harley-Davidson exhibit and Ms. Benne seconded. The vote carried, 7-0.

### *Discussion regarding Change of Building Hours*

Ms. Adams presented the proposal to consider changing the hours for the FHDC to be standard all year rather than the variation of extending hours between Memorial Day to Labor Day. A report was presented analyzing the hours against revenue and attendance. This was created by Brieanna Schmitz, FHDC Guest Services Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. Ms. Adams stated that the hours had been changed in 2014 to open at 9:00am Monday through Saturday and stay open until 6:00pm on Sunday. The hours in question were as follows:

**Sunday:** Currently, we are open 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. between Memorial Day and Labor Day. During the other months we are scheduled to close at 5:00pm. The 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. time period is not showing a higher attendance. We believe it is confusing to have a different set of times for visitors. Suggest staying with one message to guests throughout the year.

**Monday - Saturday:** Again the discussion was had to warrant opening the doors at 9:00 a.m. during Memorial to Labor Day. The reports showed very low attendance from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and feel the cost savings for staffing and costs to run the building will outweigh the attendance. The FHDC

Leadership Team believes that we could use that 9:00 a.m. hour to possibly do special programming in the building when needed.

**Thursday:** The Advisory Board members questioned if the FHDC should consider closing on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. Currently the building is open till 8:00 p.m. The reports indicated low attendance. There was discussion about the options for staying open for scheduled programming or to go with the Go See It lectures.

Ms. Bacon moved to change the hours on Sunday from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and to open one hour later Monday – Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Ms Benne seconded and, on vote, the motion carried 7-0.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Hund moved to change the Thursday schedule to 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and leave the option to schedule the FHDC open late once a month at the discretion of the FHDC staff. Ms. Schoap seconded and, on vote, the motion carried 7-0.

### **Public Comment**

Friends of the Konza Prairie reached out to the FHDC Advisory Board to ask for a letter of support for their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual *Visions of the Flint Hills* Benefit and Sale. The sale is from October 2<sup>nd</sup> – November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The art exhibit opening is October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Buttonwood Art Space, 3013 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64108.

Mr. Wilson moved to support the Friends of the Konza Prairie's event, *Visions of the Flint Hills* by supplying a letter of support. Mr. Hund seconded and the motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Adams announced that the City of Manhattan Board Appreciation Night is July 28<sup>th</sup> and the RSVP's need to be received by July 18<sup>th</sup>. She invited all of the board to attend.

### **Adjournment:**

At 5:25 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.