

**Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board Minutes**  
**July 9, 2018**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Present were the following members of the FHDC Advisory Board: Ms. Rose Bacon, Mr. John Pecoraro, Ms. Vicki Patton, Mr. James Sherow, and Ms. Stephanie Imthurn. Also present were, FHDC Director, Ms. Susan Adams, FHDC Assistant Director/Development, Ms. Katharine Hensler, and FHDC Foundation Director, Ms. Marie Martin.

**Welcome**

At 4:02 p.m., Ms. Bacon welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

**Minutes**

Mr. Sherow moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Pecoraro seconded. On vote, the motion carried 5/0.

**Old Business**

***Membership Drive Update:*** Ms. Hensler stated the goal for the membership drive was to increase membership by 10%. During the two-month drive, we sold 786 memberships, 580 were new members, and 206 were renewed memberships. The FHDC increase membership by 22% during the drive, exceeding the goal by 12%. We now have 3576 members at the FHDC. Ms. Bacon asked how we achieved the success. Ms. Hensler stated it was a combination of marketing, communications, and a staff sales contest. After the marketing drive, we celebrated with a pizza and root beer float party.

**FHDC Report**

***Attendance/Financial Report:***

This report was distributed at the July meeting.

Mr. Sherow, a former city commissioner, had concerns about how the budget looks to the public and the commission. He explained the original plan was for the transient guest tax. 2% was allotted for the FHDC. This way, the cost of the FHDC was shared with out-of-town guests. Ultimately, the commission decided to give the FHDC 1% and have 1% on reserve if needed. The reserve 1% was re-directed elsewhere. The 2% is about \$600,000, if the original plan were followed, the FHDC would break even on the budget.

***Outreach/Special Events:***

- *KS Cowboy Poetry Contest* event at the FHDC on Friday, June 8, 2018, over (100) in attendance
- *Flint Hills Festival*, Saturday, May 19, over (2,700) in attendance
- Participated in hosting Dave Kendall's film, *Prairie Women*.
- *National Day of the Cowboy*, Saturday, July 28, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the FHDC.

***Exhibits:***

*Rainforest Adventure & Butterfly House* exhibit closed on April 29

- Closed out the exhibit with a Butterfly Release party, over (500) in attendance for the day
- Please see attached spreadsheet showing cost of exhibit, income and attendance

*Be The Dinosaur*, May 12 - September 3, 2018

- Members Only exhibit opening, over (300) in attendance
- Hosting a Dino Saturday event on, Saturday, July 21
- Sponsored by ESB Financial

*Bison & Wolves and the Wildlands*, September 15 - January 13, 2019

- Partnering with Konza Quilters Guild. They are submitting individual homemade designed quilts to be hung on the walls and bannisters in the building. They are to have a Flint Hills theme: prairie, flowers, grasses, bison, grasshoppers, prairie chicken, ranching, burning, etc.
- Farm Bureau 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary display, November & December

**Education Department:**

- June 8: *8-Leg Adventure* brought to us from McPherson College Professor, Dustin Wilgers. Wonderful success with his pop exhibit about spiders and his *Wolf Spider Walks* on Friday and Saturday evening. Almost (350) in attendance over all
- Hosted Science on the Terrace: June 22 with *From Dino's to Birds, Live Raptors* from Milford Nature Center. Over (100) in attendance.
- June 21, held a *Solstice Yoga* event with a sunrise and sunset experience on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor terrace at the FHDC and the Blue Earth Plaza, partnership with Douglas Recreation Center. Over (50) in attendance.
- Science on the Terrace event, *Astronomy Viewing Night*, July 20 at 9:00 p.m.
- *Dino Saturday* event on July 21, admission rates apply
- *National Day of the Cowboy* event is scheduled for, Saturday, July 28, admission rates apply
- Currently working on the panels for the Interpretive Trail, which will be located from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor terrace to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Funded through Caroline Peine Foundation grant for \$10,000. We are using a K-State graphic design intern who is assisting us with this project.
- Participated in the KSU spring football game on, Saturday, April 21, and over (200) interactions with guests. Funding for this event is through the Science in Vivo grant, \$5,000. The grant will allow us to participate in pre activities at home football games. It will allow us to increase our reach and information to potentially a new audience, through hands on educational games with a focus on flint hills education.
- Completed Archeology grant with KSU professor, Lauren Ritterbush. A two-year partnership to bring archeology to middle school students.

**FHDC Foundation Report**

The FHDC Foundation received an award from KACEE (Kansas Association for Conservation & Environmental Education.) This award was for excellence in conservation and environmental education for the community for our Flint Hills Map and Education Program. Ms. Martin said that all monies from Flint Hills Maps sales will go towards Flint Hills Map & Education Program. The FHDC Programs and Education Animals Supervisor, Amber Myers, also received the Connie Elpers Rising Star Award from KACEE.

Ms. Martin informed the board that the Dave Kendall's movie, *Prairie Women*, will be broadcasting on KTWU on, August 23, 8:30 p.m. and August 25, 11:30 a.m.

### **New Business**

***American Adventure – Minotaur Maze*** exhibit was proposed for January 2020 – May 2020. This exhibit can fit in both the Tallgrass and the Mezzanine. Ms. Bacon suggested making connections to the Flint Hills with this exhibit. Ms. Patton moved and Mr. Pecoraro seconded to approve American Adventures – Minotaur Mazes. On vote, the motion carried 5-0.

***Board Appreciation Night*** for the City of Manhattan will be held on, January 20, 7:00 p.m. Families are welcome and Ms. Adams is taking RSVP's.

Ms. Adams explained that the FHDC has contracted with Dave Kendall and paid a one-time fee for unlimited use of his *Prairie Women* video. It will be played in the Voices exhibit.

### **Adjournment**

At 4:45 p.m., Mr. Pecoraro moved and Ms. Patton seconded to adjourn the meeting.