

Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board Meeting
October 8, 2018
4:00 p.m.

Present were the following members of the FHDC Advisory Board: Ms. Rose Bacon, Mr. John Pecoraro, Ms. Mary Beth Reese, Mr. James Sherow, and Ms. Vicki Patton via phone conference. Also present were, FHDC Director, Ms. Susan Adams, FHDC Assistant Director/Development, Ms. Katharine Hensler, FHDC Foundation Director, Ms. Marie Martin, and FHDC Foundation President, Mr. Bruce Snead.

Welcome

At 4:02 p.m. Ms. Bacon called the meeting to order. Ms. Patton phone conferenced into the meeting.

Minutes

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

Old Business

Ms. Bacon visited the *Wolves and Wildlands* exhibit and she felt the representation of the wolves was fair and the specimen quality was impressive. She also commented the *Bison* exhibit and the Konza Prairie Quilts were amazing. Ms. Adams shared that we hosted the quilters board meeting at the FHDC today and there were 70-80 quilters present at the meeting.

Mr. Sherow mentioned the Bison Panel Discussion will be on Saturday, October 27th. On the panel will be a variety of different perspectives: Indian, Environmentalist, Ecologist, and a Bison Rancher.

FHDC Report

Attendance/Financial Report:

This report was distributed at the October meeting.

Strategic Plan Update:

Ms. Adams distributed copies of the FHDC Strategic Plan update. The last update was November 2017. Ms. Adams stated she was proud of her team and all that they had accomplished.

Ms. Adams informed the board The City of Manhattan has been on a hiring freeze since June 2018 and Ms. Hensler has been handling the Marketing, as the position has been vacant. She also stated that Ms. Hildreth, the FHDC Office Assistant, would be the interim Guest Services/Membership Manager and resume her current duties as well. Ms. Bacon asked Ms. Hensler and Hildreth how it was going. They said it was manageable just not long term.

Mr. Sherow asked how we are doing on sponsorships in 2018. Ms. Hensler stated that the goal for 2018 was \$10,000 and they currently have \$37,447. She said the goal for 2019 was \$55,000.

Outreach/Special Events:

- Hosted National Day of the Cowboy on Saturday, July 28, with over 800 in attendance
- Hosted Community Day on Sunday, September 9 with over 800 in attendance
- Equinox Yoga-partnership with Douglas Community Center, September 22 with over (20) in attendance at each event held at 7:00am and 7:00pm.

Exhibits:

Be The Dinosaur-closed on September 3, 2018

- Hosted a Dino Saturday event on July 12 and had over (500) in attendance. The FHDC partnered with Sternberg Museum and KU Paleontology Department.
- Attendance for the exhibit was over 26,000

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

- Exhibit opened with a member's only event with over (250) in attendance.
- Lecture Series, Panel discussion, trips to visit Bison ranches, and National Bison Day all scheduled to compliment this exhibit.
- Partnered with Konza Prairie Quilters Guild. There are (27) handmade works of art displayed in the gallery. Challenge was to Discovery the Flint Hills in Fabric.

Education Department:

- Hosted Science on the Terrace: Astronomy Viewing Night on, July 20, with KSU Professor Chris Sorenson. Over (500) in attendance.
- Hosted Science of the Terrace: Astronomy Viewing Night, August 17, with (323) in attendance.
- Completing interpretive panels for the Interpretive Trail. It will be located from the 3rd floor terrace to the 1st floor. Funding received from Caroline Peine Foundation grant, \$10,000.
- Science in Vivo grant, \$5,000. Challenged to take science to the people. Participating at KSU home football games and bringing hands on flint hills educational activities during the pre-game time to guests.
- Retro Gaming Night: August 23 was a huge success. Received sponsorship from Civic Plus along with volunteers from their business. There were (292) in attendance. It was a great partnership with KSU and other local businesses.

FHDC Foundation Report:

Mr. Snead said the FHDC Foundation is working with their campaign to generate funds for the FHDC. The *Vistas Newsletter* is a communication tool that reaches 4,000 people. The FHDC Foundation is working on recruiting new board members. The women in Dave Kendall's film, *Prairie Women: Engaging Women in the Flint Hills*, will be endorsing the FHDC Foundation 2nd Annual Fund Drive. The FHDC Foundation also has goals to increase numbers, attendance, and education at the FHDC. Mr. Snead said that the bonds for the FHDC would be paid off in advance, approximately 3-4 years early. Ms. Bacon thanked Ms. Martin and Mr. Snead for all of their hard work.

New Business**Public Comment:**

Ms. Adams asked the FHDC Advisory Board if they would like to move the public comment to the top of the agenda. Ms. Bacon felt moving public comment would allow the person speaking to leave if they didn't want to attend the whole meeting. There was discussion amongst the board about limiting the public comment to five minutes and needing to register to comment. Mr. Pecoraro said the public comment is always at the beginning of the agenda on the boards he serves.

Ms. Reese said she would like to see more recycling at the FHDC being that it is a Gold Leed Building. Ms Adams and Hensler clarified all of the ways we recycle that she may not see.

Adjournment

At 4:55 p.m., Mr. Sherow motioned and Ms. Reese seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5/0.