

Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board Meeting
January 14, 2019
4:00 pm

Present were the following members of the FHDC Advisory Board: Ms. Rose Bacon, Mr. John Pecoraro, Ms. Mary Beth Reese, Mr. James Sherow, Ms. Larie Schoap, Ms. Stephanie Imthurn, and Ms. Vicki Patton. 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 4:00 p.m., Ms. Bacon called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Mr. Sherow moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Patton seconded. On vote, the motion carried 7/0.

FHDC Advisory Board Officer Selection

Mr. Sherow nominated Ms. Bacon for FHDC Advisory Board Chair and Ms. Patton for FHDC Advisory Board Vice Chair. Ms. Schoap seconds.

Ms. Schoap fulfilled her terms on the FHDC Advisory Board. Her replacement will be James (J.T.) Laverty, Professor in the K-State Physics Department.

Old Business

There have been bylaw changes about the rules of public comment at the city level. The City of Manhattan has asked to implement on all advisory boards. Ms. Adams also suggested we move public comment to the second item on the agenda. After the FHDC Advisory Board reviewed and discussed the amendment, Ms. Reese moved to approve the amendment and Mr. Pecoraro seconded. On vote, the motion carried 6-1.

Director's Report

Attendance/Financial Report:

Ms. Adams explained the FHDC had a very good year in 2018 with significant increases to admissions and revenue. Ms. Adams will email out the Exhibit Cost/Revenue Comparison and Temporary Exhibit Spreadsheet once the final numbers are added.

Staff Update:

Brianna Schmitz, Volunteer Coordinator/Guest Services manager resigned and her last day was October 4. The positions responsibilities were reviewed and the position was restructured. The new position is now Guest Services/Membership Manager and a part-time Volunteer Coordinator position. The Guest Services/Membership Manager position was filled by our Admin Asst., Mary Hildreth on October 8. The part-time Volunteer Coordinator position has been posted and we are beginning the interview process. Abrianna DelTufo, Marketing Coordinator resigned and Kynedee Hodges, the FHDC Summer Marketing Intern is our new Marketing Coordinator. Her first day was November 5.

Outreach/Special Events:

- Open late on Friday, November 23 for Festival of Lights event, offered viewing opportunity from our Blue Earth Room - over (500) in attendance
- Completion of *Prairie Garden Trail* with Caroline Peine Grant for \$10,000: trail located at the ground level of building on the back side to the 3rd floor terrace
- Participated in the Flint Hills Veterans Parade
- Hosted Military Appreciation Day with free access to all military and their families. Supported by grant from the FHDC Foundation

Exhibits:**September 15, 2018 - January 13, 2019**

Bison/Wolves and the Wildlands/Konza Prairie Quilt exhibit closed January 13

January 26, 2019 - May 12, 2019

Framed: Step into Art & Storyland

- Sponsors are: Capitol Federal & CVB
- Adding a Johnny Kaw interaction with the Storyland exhibit, partnering with Riley County Historical Museum
- Additional exhibit in the atrium - Meadowlark Hills & Beach Museum - Memory Program - February 28 - March 18

May 25, 2019-September 8, 2019

Dream with DaVinci & American Institute of Baking (AIB)

- Partnering with American Institute of Baking to celebrate their 100 year anniversary

September 21, 2019-January 12, 2020

Zoo In You

- Working with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas on sponsorship
- Applying for Kansas Humanities Major grant
- Partnering with KS Learning Center for Health, Halstead Historical Museum, & Riley County Historical Museum

Education Department:

Special Events:

- Celebrated National Bison Day with special hands on activities
- Celebrate '68 adult event, partnering with UFM and KSU
- Participated in Science in Communication week with KSU - hosted Daniel Stone, author of "*The Food Explorer*"
- (2) Breakfast with Santa events - sold out with (303) in attendance
- New Year's Eve event - sold out with (228) in attendance

Tallgrass Tour Bus:

- Lazy Heart D Bison Ranch & Plumlee Buffalo Ranch

Exhibit Lectures:

- The role of Bison in Prairie Maintenance: Jeff Taylor, Konza Prairie
- Tales of a Wildlife Rehabber: Pat Silovsky, Milford Nature Center
 - Bison and Humans through Time Panel Discussion: Moderator: Jim Sherow, and Panelists: Curtis Kekahbah, Andrew Isenberg, Donald Kaufman and Jerry Schmidt.

Ms. Hensler delivered results of the 1st Annual Membership Drive in 2018. We significantly exceeded all previous years in membership sales with 4009 memberships. Moving forward, our goal is to maintain the current memberships as well as hold an annual membership drive each year to gain new memberships.

FHDC Foundation Report

Mr. Snead announced the \$417,000 technology gift from Marty Vanier to replace the projectors in the theater and allow the FHDC to show additional films in the theater. This gift was a second theater gift from Marty Vanier. Bob Krause and Ms. Vanier gifted \$750,000 Immersive Theater in 2015. On Tuesday, February 12, we will have a ribbon cutting for the updated system. The projectors are being installed from January 14 – January 25 and the theater is shut down. The FHDC is offering a discounted admission during the upgrade of \$7 (adults) and \$3 (youth).

The FHDC continues to work with Swanson House Consulting after a successful 2018.

Marty Vanier will be the 2019 recipient of the Friend of the Flint Hills. She will be recognized on April 6.

The FHDC Foundation had an end of the year fund drive. There were printer issues that delayed the printing and sending of the letters. Because of this, they were only able to send one letter this year.

The new Interpretive Trail is complete and the FHDC Foundation operated as the fiscal agent through the Carolyn Peine Foundation. Ms. Bacon complimented the interpretive trail to guide guests about the FHDC and surrounding areas.

New Business

Ms. Adams reminded the FHDC Advisory Board about the training for KS Open Meetings Act on January 29 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. She also shared the 2019 budget for the FHDC as well as the items listed on the 2018/2019 Capital Improvement Project (CIP). Items listed were an entrance sign, projectors (fulfilled with gift), redevelopment of the second floor mezzanine, shade for the terrace, classroom chairs, 15 passenger van, and carpet. If the board has additional suggested CIP's please forward those to the director.

Adjournment

At 4:55 p.m., Mr. Pecoraro moved and Mr. Sherow seconded to adjourn the meeting.