

**FHDC Advisory Board Meeting**  
**July 12, 2021**  
**4:00 pm**  
**Flint Hills Room – Flint Hills Discovery Center**  
 315 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
 Manhattan, KS 66502

Present were the following members of the FHDC Advisory Board: Mr. John Pecoraro, Ms. Vicki Patton, Mr. J.T. Lavery, Mr. John Hund, and Ms. Rose Bacon. Also present were, FHDC Director, Ms. Susan Adams, FHDC Guest Services/Membership Manager, Ms. Mary Hildreth, and FHDC Foundation Director, Ms. Lesley White.

**Welcome**

At 4:04 p.m., Ms. Patton called the meeting to order. Ms. Adams introduced new employees Ms. Kat Colburn, FHDC Education Specialist and Ms. Emma Snyder, Marketing Coordinator. Both were present and gave a quick synopsis of their background.

**Minutes**

Mr. Hund moved to approve the April 2021 minutes and Mr. Pecoraro seconded. On vote, the motion carried 5-0.

**Old Business**

Ms. Adams announced that McCownGordon, Dimensional Innovations, & Bowman, Bowman & Novick were selected for the Kidscape project and things were moving forward quickly. Ms. Adams shared current concepts. The committee consists of Ms. Adams, Mr. Roy Garrett, FHDC Exhibits/Operations Mgr., Mr. Zac Doyle, FHDC Building Technician, Mr. Stephen Bridenstine, FHDC Curator of Education, Lesley White, Foundation Director and Ms. Molly Wold, retired teacher. Mr. Lavery wanted to make sure the committee was representing the diverse community populations such as cultural, racial, and gender. Ms. Bacon shared there has to be trust for the professionals to take care of this. Mr. Hund supported the importance of diversity. Ms. Adams stated the exhibit professionals are accustomed to dealing with this and the FHDC team, especially, Mr. Bridenstine, has a lot of experience with addressing these concerns.

**Director’s Report**

Well, it has been an interesting time coming out of Covid. In the beginning attendance was slow and the numbers were low but higher than the national average. Since our most recent opening of the “Hands On Harley Davidson” exhibit and many people are getting vaccinated and willing to get back out in the public, our numbers have increased daily. Which has been very motivating! We are getting staff hired and programs and activities are being held at the center. A big thank you to each of you and our many community members who continue to support our work. We couldn’t do it without each of you! So, thank you!

**Attendance**

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>2019</b>	3202	3420	5161	2584	6353	4314	5159	4264	4232	2914	3376	2483	<b>47462</b>
<b>2020</b>	3393	3404	1938	0	0	388	1772	1682	1558	1695	1394	1281	<b>18505</b>
<b>2021</b>	1659	2219	3337	2106	3657	4287							

- FHDC was closed from March 14, 2020 – June 19, 2020
- Admission is 69% of 2019 Admission

**Staff Update**

Currently the FHDC has the following staff positions open: Full-time position, Asst. Director, Part-Time Positions, Volunteer Coordinator & Guest Service/Front Desk. Marketing Coordinator position has been filled with Emma Snyder and the Education Specialist position has been filled by Katherine “Kat” Colburn.

## Outreach/Special Events

- Hosted a “Free Day” on May 29<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the KS Department of Treasury to promote 529 Day for the educational accounts. It was a nice success and hope they will consider including us again the next time. Other facilities involved were Exploration Place in Wichita and Kansas Children’s Discovery Center in Topeka.
- Hosting “Christmas in July” on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. The day will begin with a motorcycle rally lead by Santa and Mrs. Claus. They will gather in the FHDC parking lot and kids who visit the area will be allowed to vote for “The Kids Choice” award. There will be food trucks, bounce house, Toys for Tots drive, and lots of fun activities for all ages.
- National Day of the Cowboy will be celebrated on Saturday, July 24. Day filled with wagon rides, roping, branding and fun craft activities.
- Flint Hills Food Festival is scheduled for Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. We are hosting restaurants and food trucks that want to set up in the Blue Earth Plaza and host the first annual “Food Festival”.

## Exhibits

May 15-September 12, 2021-Hands on Harley-Davidson

<https://www.bbcmkids.org/hands-on-harley-davidson/>

September 25- January 2, 2022-Dinosaur Discoveries

<https://www.amnh.org/global-business-development/traveling-exhibitions/dinosaur-discoveries-ancient-fossils-new-ideas>

January 15-May 8, 2022-Measurement Rules

<https://pittsburghkids.org/pages/measurement>

May 21-September 11, 2022-Big League Fun

<https://www.bbcmkids.org/big-league-fun/>

[September 2022-January 2023-exhibit space open](#)

## Education Department

- K-12 school field trips picked up in late April and May totaling 516 total students visiting the FHDC
- Completed all 31 grant-funded Virtual Programs bringing in \$3100 in revenue to the FHDC and reaching 641 students in grades K-12
- Completed spring Ask an Expert virtual interview series with four programs, four additional programs plan for fall 2021
  - April – Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie with Michael Stubbs
  - May – Konza Prairie Biological Station with John Blair
- Ran successful and safe spring Walk and Talk programs including
  - Family Fossil Hike
  - Mount Mitchell History and Heritage
  - Fun with Fungus
- Completed Guided Konza Hikes event in partnership with K-State Parks Management Class, served 155 guests on 15 guided hikes.
- Completed spring Downtown StoryWalk in partnership with USD 383, Downtown Manhattan, and Manhattan Public Library. Planning for a fall dinosaur-themed Downtown StoryWalk to take place in September and complement the fall Dinosaur Discoveries exhibit
- Currently running eight weeks of sold-out Summer Adventure camp for youth entering grades 1-6
- Hired new full-time Education Supervisor, Katherine Colburn, and three Seasonal Educators for summer camp
- Provided holiday-themed science activities for youth at the Christmas in July event on July 10

## Rentals

Rentals have begun to increase and restrictions for number of people and limited catering has been lifted. We have hired a couple of seasonal staff to assist with the larger number of events.

### Volunteer Program

Our volunteer support is still present in the building and increasing every day. Jonathan Mertz has been serving in that position and has been getting new volunteers in as well as our past volunteers are returning more every week.

Volunteer Hours:

January-61

February-93

March-179

April-140

May-197

June-190

### Membership Sales Comparison

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	290	417	358	350	220
February	252	362	300	298	212
March	262	502	418	213	358
April	231	354	207	12	189
May	302	378	294	1	257
June	266	368	309	86	337
July	334	337	305	168	
August	262	350	363	171	
September	162	249	256	148	
October	166	176	247	206	
November	178	203	189	366	
December	292	313	357	229	

<b>TOTAL</b>	2997	4009	3603	2248	1573
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### FHDC Foundation Report

The FHDC Foundation participated in the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation in Grow Green Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This was an opportunity to contribute to the FHDC Education Endowment and have contributions matched at 50%. The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation was able to raise over \$20K.

KIDSCAPE which is a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor renovation of the children's area has made great progress. Phase 1 of a two-phase process has begun. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the KIDSCAPE Selection Committee interviewed 3 design/build companies and chose the McCownGordon Team which consists of the following companies. (Dimensional Innovations, BBN and Orazem & Scalora) On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the City Commissioners approved the contract. The Foundation will be funding the project costs and Phase 1 costs have been paid.

Tax credits for 2021 are still available if anyone is interested in learning more. The Foundation has made this a priority to have the remaining credits used by the late summer early fall. All tax credits go towards funding KIDSCAPE, the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor renovation of the children's area. If you would like additional information, please contact myself at [fhdcfoundation1@gmail.com](mailto:fhdcfoundation1@gmail.com) or call 785.748.1275.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Bison, Beef and Bourbon event planning is in full swing. We are planning for the event to be held in person on October 23, 2021, at the Discovery Center. Hope that you will consider joining us this year, so please Save the Date! We are still looking for donations for the silent auction and live auction, please contact me if you have suggestions or donations for the event. The Augmented Reality Sand Table purchased from donations from the 2019 Bison, Beef, and Bourbon. The table has finally been brought out for guest use and is very popular.

### **New Business**

Art and Light Museum - Ms. Adams explained the city was approached by the Debruyne family who owns Master Teacher in Manhattan about opening a 50,000 square foot art museum to display their large collection of art, as well as projection art. This item was taken to the City Commission and approval was given to move forward with the building projected to be built in the Flint Hills Discovery Center parking lot. Ms. Adams shared she is not opposed to the museum but questions the location. The board felt the importance in composing a letter to address their concerns regarding the parking lot being used for the museum's location. A decision was made to prepare a letter and present it to the FHDC Foundation Board to show the unity before sending it on to the city.

Mr. Lavery expressed the importance of how the letter is framed to be received well. Ms. Patton asked that the board receive updates by Ms. Adams as details become available. There are tentative plans for two representatives from the FHDC Advisory Board to meet with the FHDC Foundation board before they proceed with sending a letter to the city.

Ms. Adams informed the board that the FHDC at this time will continue to be closed on Mondays. She shared it is common for museums to be closed on Monday and we have been serving many group visits on these days. She also shared we will use this day to serve special populations.

### **Adjournment**

At 5:36 p.m. Ms. Patton adjourned the meeting.