

ANDERSON ABRUZZO ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Abruzzo at 4:04 PM.

Present were Nancy Abruzzo, Tom Fisher, Gary Libman, Greg Shuman, Patty Anderson, Michael Anderson, Betty Ann McDermott, Angela Romero, Cindy Hernandez-Wall and Karen Brown. Also present were museum staff Paul Garver, Linda Hubley, Laurie Magovern and Marilee Nason and Foundation staff Holly Lowe and Jill Lane. Guest – Margie Marino, Director of the Museum of Natural History and Science.

The minutes from the last meeting were read. Gary moved and Michael seconded the minutes be approved as written.

MUSEUM REPORT – Paul

Paul reported that attendance and revenue are up about 14%. The Crowd Funding is underway for the Weather Lab. Donor levels start at \$10. There will be more promotions to come over the next few months.

The Two Eagles documentary is completed and the premiere is scheduled for February 6 at 6:00 pm at the Kimo Theater. The Two Eagles team was nominated for the Collier Award, one of aviation's highest honors. The theater is nearly completed and the carpeting, lighting and seating will be installed over the next few weeks. The UNM Fab Lab is working on the Weather Lab exhibits and the opening is still scheduled for August.

COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITS

Work continues on the Artic Air exhibit, with fabricated pieces coming in. The model of the balloon is in place and Peter Cuneo and Barbara Fricke have been working on the netting. Dr. Fred Goldberg will be here in March to curate a small exhibit featuring stamps and other memorabilia on the Andree trip. The opening is now scheduled for June.

Mark Meadows is offering photos of Project Echo, a Mylar balloon developed by NASA. Karl Frederick offered a roll of the Mylar and will bring it to Fiesta.

BOARD NEWS

Kim Vesely has resigned and Betty Ann McDermott has been appointed. Betty is with the Center for Hands On Learning at APS and also works with Explora. Nancy introduced Margie Marino from the Natural History Museum. She is a recent appointee and has over thirty years in the museum field. She will be representing the State Cultural Affairs Department. She has also done evaluations and assessments all over the state.

EVENTS AND RENTALS

Linda discussed upcoming events and activities. The Shamrock Fest is March 12, Touch-A-Truck event is June 8. The Concert Band summer series will be split between the museum and Veteran's Park. Inquires in January totaled 98.

EDUCATION

Laurie reported that Stories in the Sky is attracting 200 people per week. Science in the Sky begins this week and runs through March. Women and Creativity starts March 6 with the kickoff taking place at the museum. The theme is "Rally: How We Gather". March 19 is Ballooning for All and March 30 is Spring Break Family Day. There has been some press on Stories and the science events. Laurie invited everyone to attend the volunteer appreciation luncheon on February 12 at 11:30 am.

FOUNDATION

Jill mentioned that membership is growing and Fiesta planning is underway. The viewing event rack cards are done and booking is live on the website. There are six tour groups booked and four Skybox events. Ten out of eleven viewing events were sold out last year.

Hall of Fame is scheduled for September 30.

Manhattan on the Mesa was successful.

Jill is organized a lobbying blitz to the legislature to say thank you to the legislators for their past support. Paul and Troy were well received. Jeremy Rutherford assisted.

Chic-I-Boom Ball is July 22. We are looking for sponsors and accepting silent auction donations.

Currently, the Foundation has given \$36,077 to the city in support of museum activities. Restricted funds expended to date are at \$41,907.

ACCREDITATION

Paul handed out the Museum Assessment final report completed by Kim Cavendish. There were no big surprises.

Her findings included:

1. There is a disconnect between the mission and the programs offered.
2. There is a need for more inclusive planning and coordination.
3. Education is active and growing.
4. Collections need a registrar and storage renovation.
5. The museum is operating with a skeleton crew.
6. Inadequate funding.
7. Lack of input in the budget process.
8. There is a need for everyone to work together.

Her recommendation were:

1. Budget input from everyone.
2. Work on internal trust and teamwork.
3. Include the collection in exhibitions.
4. Empower the staff.
5. Market and promote more.

Paul is working on planning revolving around collections, budget and strategic planning. Michael asked how the Board can help. Paul plans to involve both Boards in the strategic planning

process. The Boards can also advocate for the museum in the budget process. The current budget is \$952,000 and the department is requesting an increase of \$209,000, \$70,000 in maintenance and \$139,000 for additional staff.

Budget continues to be an issue for the museum. Michael suggested we set up a meeting with the Mayor in conjunction with the Foundation to be sure he is on board with the increased budget. Gary suggested also meeting with Councilor Harris who is already an advocate for the museum. Nancy asked Paul for guidance in approaching the Mayor. Just talk about the need for increases. Some basic bullet points are needed to highlight the needs.

Paul went over the budget process. The Mayor sends his proposed budget to the Council by April 1. Representatives meet with the Department on April 9. This is the time to contact the councilors. Councilor Winter is our representative and he is interested in STEM. Public comment is due by April 22

It is possible we could make some informal contact with the Mayor at the Two Eagles event and then try to have as many members as possible attend the April 21 Council meeting. Linda noted we are not the only department with budget problems.

Paul mentioned that Jeremy has been a big help. The department has a request in to the legislature to re-authorize the \$268,000 in capital outlay to use the funds for the annex. Jeremy was able to lead the way through this process to get that done.

Right now events and rentals provide for much of the needed funds to cover the shortfalls. Additional budget would allow the museum to use those funds in other areas. The figures break down as:

GO Bonds - \$285,000

Foundation- \$40,000

State - \$300,000

Total - \$825,000

Cindy said she would call the Mayor tomorrow and try to schedule something.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.