

ANDERSON ABRUZZO ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 9, 2018

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Fisher at 4:05 PM.

Present were Tom Fisher, Nancy Abruzzo, Troy Bradley, Margie Marino, Peter Cuneo, Betty Ann McDermott, Karen Brown and Cindy Hernandez Wall. Also present were museum staff Linda Hubley, Marilee Nason, and Amanda Lujan. Foundation director Jill Lane was also present.

The minutes from the last meeting were read. There was one correction noting reference to Road Scholar. Nancy moved and Karen seconded minutes be approved as corrected.

Karen recognized Jill Lane on her induction into the Tourism Hall of Fame.

MUSEUM REPORT

Marilee reported for Paul. Attendance through March 31 was 108,734 up 13%. Attendance for the fiscal year is expected to surpass 140,000. Big events and activities help to keep those numbers up, but field trips have also doubled over the last year. She noted that attendance at Stories in the Sky, and Science in the Sky continue to grow. The STEM and MESA programs were very successful. A new summer program is being planned and is a partnership providing STEM camps.

COLLECTIONS

Marilee reported she has been working at the Annex. The first round of surplus materials, including the Symex is gone. She can now clean the building. Her main goal is to inventory and evaluate the collection, which currently has about 5,800 records. The study of the annex is almost complete. It will evaluate whether to refurbish the annex, move the collection to another city building or build a storage building on the museum grounds. Nancy asked how the study went from upgrade to a new facility. Marilee explained that cost was the major factor. The Foundation is looking at grants and the possibility of using bonds. The problem right now is the lack of air conditioning in the annex and the effect on the artifacts.

The museum recently received a collection of slides and other artifacts from Buddy Bombard. It includes 25,000 slides which Bobby Tuley and Karen Brown helped to sort and 50 to 100 other items.

FOUNDATION – Jill

Jill reported that she, John Chavez, Pat Sanchez, Nancy Abruzzo and Jeremy Rutherford attended the City Council budget meeting to lobby for equity in funding. The requested increase in admission prices was approved with \$25,000 of the increase coming back to the museum, which was later eliminated. Jill encouraged Board members to contact their councilors since there was some confusing and incorrect information disseminated. Some of the decisions made at the meeting were changed later. Jill thanked Nancy for her help. Nancy feels there is a shift in support from the department and we need to be diligent.

Jill noted the foundation continues to look at new ways to make money. A summer season pass program will target new members and will be good from Memorial Day to Labor Day and will include a \$5 gift certificate to the shoppe. There will be an outreach at the end of the summer to try to keep the members.

Invitations to Chic-I-Boom Ball will go out soon, a sellout is anticipated. Board members are encouraged to purchase tickets or donate items for the auction. The theme this year is Copacabana and there will be prizes for costumes.

Red, White and Balloons dinner will be in Pugash Hall on July 4, Tickets are \$35. Fiesta reservations are going well. Several are sold out and others are close. There will be a raffle for a Caribbean cruise donated by Rio Grande Travel. Tickets are available in books of ten. Prices are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. June 6 is the next Leadership Luncheon and will include a tour of the Hall of Fame.

EDUCATION – Amanda

Field trips are booming. There are 29 scheduled for spring compared to 13 last year. A total of 2,000 students attended field trips this year, not counting Montgolfier Day or Science in the Sky. Special events included Ballooning for All at 800, Spring Break Day at 1000. Upcoming programs include an exhibit on solar ballooning and a celebration of the 40th anniversary of Double Eagle II. Troy will be the featured speaker.

EXHIBITS

The Hall of Fame exhibit encountered a few problems but is back on track to open by the end of the summer. The exhibit will include an interactive display that can be searched both in the museum and online.

EVENTS AND RENTALS

Linda reported on recent events.

Shamrock Fest – 4,000

Food Truck Festival – 6,000

Mini Maker Fair – 1,500

Renaissance Fair – 6,500

Great Strides – 500

Coming up

Pizza Fest, May 19

Concert Band series – every other Wednesday evening starting May 23, sponsored by Garcia Automotive

STEM Camps – June and July, robotics, media arts and drones

Linda also showed a video on the new BMPR pod racing events coming up over the summer. The public is invited to come on June 17 to watch the competition. Troy noted the FAI is big into

drones. Right now the value to the museum is questionable unless it can bring in the crowds at some point. Marilee noted that safety is also a concern as people do not know the rules when the drones are in the air.

OTHER BUSINESS – None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 11 at 4:00 pm.