

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
ALBUQUERQUE MUSEUM
February 10, 2015

Present: Jacobo de la Serna, Chair Cathy Wright
Pamela Chavez Andrew Connors
Hal Behl Deb Slaney
Dr. Jerome Goss
Julie Gutiérrez

Absent: Kathleen Lebeck
John Cordova

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes of the December 9, 2014, Board of Trustees meeting were M/S/P, with one abstention.

Jacobo de la Serna spoke with Carmen Ortiz, the Mayor's liaison to Boards and Commissions. He briefly outlined the step for the long process of nominating and appointing new Trustees. Ms. Ortiz is currently processing Louise Campbell-Tolber's nomination by the Foundation Board, which will fill Victor Lopez's vacancy. All nominees go through a background check. The application then goes to the City Councilor from the applicant's city district, then to the Mayor, CAO, Council, and Boards & Commissions. Final approval is by City Council. Boards & Commissions then generates a letter from the Mayor to the new appointee. The question of Corrales residents came up, since Casa San Ysidro is in Corrales. Although not definitively prohibited in the ordinance, the administration has been reluctant to appoint members from outside of City limits. A council member would need to sponsor a change in the legislation.

The Report to the City draft was distributed. It will be sent to members via email. Cathy Wright will put the report into a letter format for all members to sign. A critical component is educating the administration about how the Albuquerque Museum compares with others nationally, which is very well. The Board felt very positive about the content. A motion to approve with minor typographical changes noted was M/S/P. Members will be notified when the original is ready to be signed.

Cathy Wright noted that staff is getting the history exhibit ready for its public opening. We have two ground-breaking exhibits about Albuquerque opening within a few weeks of each other: *Visualizing Albuquerque* and *Only in Albuquerque*.

Julie Gutiérrez reviewed the Foundation's participation in the state legislative sessions. Ann Conway is the Foundation's lobbyist. The Village of Corrales is seeking independent funding for the sewer and fire suppression system under the name of Casa San Ysidro. The Foundation lobbying this year does not include Casa.

The Foundation will be the beneficiary of funds raised at the KiMo Theater 'oscar' night celebration. The Foundation is beginning its budget process. There has been a downturn in corporate funding, which is a national trend. The Director of Communications position has been posted. The position serves both the Foundation and Museum. The Foundation Board is seeking nominations for the Board. A brief review of the meeting with City administration confirmed that the position of assistant curator will not be reinstated. AMF noted in the meeting with the City that in comparing per capita operational costs, the Albuquerque Museum should not be compared to science museums or zoos. The Cultural Services Department is designing the marketing collateral for the new history exhibit and, therefore, the Foundation has suspended its contract with The Design Minds for the design. The Foundation will continue to work with the Museum to meet the Museum's needs. Pamela Chavez noted that if AMF would let the Board know what types of member nominees they are searching for, the Board is happy to make suggestions.

Andrew Connors said that the exhibit *Visualizing Albuquerque* opened two weeks ago. The exhibit was curated and catalog written by Joseph Traugott. The catalog was funded by The FUNd at the Foundation, established by Ray Graham. The exhibit is the lead exhibit in a city-wide collaboration called Over the Map. A list of collaborators and programs was printed in a map-like publication. There were two New Mexico magazine articles in January (featuring *Visualizing Albuquerque*) and February (featuring downtown and *On the Map*). Andrew reviewed the media campaign, including national advertising in the New York Times. 516 Arts & Richard Levy Gallery were especially helpful in the organization and promotion of the project. The December Art Advisory Meeting minutes will be presented at the next Board meeting. The Museum recently received many great gifts, including a drawing by Amadeo Modigliani. Andrew commended Maureen Ryan of the Museum Store for getting great books and collateral to promote the *Visualizing Albuquerque* exhibit and Museum's collections. A suggestion was made by the Board to present the *Visualizing Albuquerque* catalog to City Council.

Deb Slaney passed out the end-of-the-year History Advisory Committee meeting minutes, which included a Soapbox Derby car for the Albuquerque Derby, which then went to the national Derby in Akron, Ohio. The gift included the car, helmets, T-shirt, banners, etc., and the ABQ Tribune is painted on the side as a sponsor. Deb is working on an exhibit for the Keleher gallery called *Rad Gadgets*, an exploration that asks, "what is that?" Deb thanked the AMF for sponsoring a staff and family night for the *Only in Albuquerque* history exhibit. She reviewed some of the marketing publicity and programming. The New Mexico Council of Car Clubs Classic Auto Show is at the Museum on May 17.

Jacobo de la Serna asked about the status of the FEMA grants for the 2013 storm. At this time, it appears that the City has received FEMA funds, but that the only funds available to the Museum are for the research and mitigation of flooding at Casa San Ysidro. A more complete report will be made at the next Board meeting.

Cathy Wright apprised the Board of the history exhibition opening plans for an on-line ticketing and reservation system in anticipation of possible large crowds for the opening of the exhibition on March 3.

Jerry Goss brought up Casa San Ysidro and the question of support, both by Corrales and the City of Albuquerque, and its significance and importance to the Albuquerque Museum. Jacobo de la Serna noted the concern and also pointed out that there are very few other historic sites like Casa, and that it is a recognized state historic register site. The Camino Real Association will have having a series of talks at Casa this spring. Casa needs better support; it's part of the Museum's history program. It is important to telling the early history of Albuquerque. The Museum will be reviewing that master plan and future sustainability and mission needs of Casa in the coming year.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING APRIL 14, 2015, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.