

Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board Minutes
November 14, 2016
4:00 p.m.

Present were the following members of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Advisory Board: Ms. Suzan Barnes, Ms. Rose Bacon, Ms. Christine Benne, Mr. John Hund, and Mr. Ron Wilson. Ms. Larie Schoap arrived at 5:34 p.m. Ms. Susan Adams, FHDC Director, and Ms. Marie Martin, FHDC Foundation, were also present.

Welcome

At 4:07 p.m., Ms. Suzan Barnes called the meeting to order.

Minutes

At 4:09 p.m., Ms. Suzan Barnes asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Rose Bacon motioned and Ms. Christine Benne seconded that we approve the September 12, 2016 minutes. On vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Old Business

Molly Kurtz, new FHDC Marketing Coordinator's joined the team on October 10th. She is from West Virginia and has a marketing degree. We are thrilled to have her, as she brings a new perspective and a very open mind to many new ideas.

FHDC Report

Ms. Adams gave an update on the past couple of months regarding the FHDC and the numerous activities happening. Please see attached document.

FHDC Monthly/Yearly Attendance

Attendance across the board has increased for the FHDC. We have surpassed our 2015 attendance and anticipate a great end to our year. We have also almost surpassed the revenue and are sure we will have an increase by the end of the year.

FHDC Strategic Plan

Ms. Susan Adams had sent copies of the FHDC 5 year Strategic Plan to Advisory Board members before the meeting for them to review. Ms. Susan Adams explained she may need to present to the City Commissioners but is waiting to hear. Ms. Christine Benne asked if the FHDC advisory board could be notified so the board members could attend and support the plan. Ms. Rose Bacon commented how much work a strategic plan is. Ms. Suzan Barnes complemented Ms. Susan Adams on having a simple plan, which was easy to understand. Mr. Ron Wilson said he would like to see which staff members are responsible for each line item and their timeline to accomplish each idea.

FHDC Foundation Report

Swanson House Consultants

Swanson House Fundraising Professionals met with the Foundation Board on October 28th to review the results of their findings. The report is 33 pages long and had many recommendations on how the Foundation can improve their fundraising abilities. They did state that at the current time there seems to be a very strong relationship between the Foundation and Center which will assist with the progress. Moving forward FHDC and the Foundation plan to combine fundraising efforts and collaborate to find donors in the area.

MAPS Project

The project is currently scheduled to place 165 maps in schools across the region. They exceeded their fundraising goals and the additional money will go towards the educational component. This will benefit the FHDC as they move forward in working with schools.

David Kendall Movie Project

Over 300 people attended the Documentary premier at the Granada in Emporia on Saturday, November 12. The documentary will be shown on WIBW November 29th from 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., commercial free. Ms. Marie Martin invited everyone to attend the next showing at the Wareham Theater on Sunday, November 20th at 1:00 p.m. A reception will follow at the FHDC. At the end of 2016, this Dave Kendall movie project will close. The FHDC Gift Store will be selling the documentary.

New Business

The following exhibits had been sent to the Advisory Board for their review before attending the meeting.

***Be the Dinosaur:* May 12, 2018 – September 3, 2018, Cost: \$50,000**

Ms. Susan Adams pointed out that it is a quick turnaround from *Amazing Dinosaurs* but this is a different type of exhibit with interactive video games.

***Framed, Step into Art:* January 26, 2019 – May 12, 2019, Cost: \$15,000**

We have had a variety of artists approach us about partnering on a future exhibit. This may give us the opportunity to do so.

***Dream with DaVinci:* May 25, 2019 – September 8, 2019, Cost: \$50,000**

***Big League Fun:* May, 23, 2020 – August 23, 2020, Cost: \$55,000**

Ms. Susan Adams was happy to announce that exhibits that are beyond the current budgeted year will be moving into the city's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). This will improve our purchasing power for future big dollar exhibits.

Mr. Ron Wilson asked about the exhibits connection to the FHDC? There was a discussion by the group with a conclusion that the exhibits may not always have an actual connection to our mission but they are a draw for a variety of different audiences to come to the FHDC and then learn about the Flint Hills region through the existing exhibits. Concerns were voiced that if we focus too much on the connection, it might affect our attendance. Mr. Ron Wilson, said after

looking at the FHDC strategic plan, there is a lot of flexibility in what we can use in terms of temporary exhibits.

Ms. Suzan Barnes asked the FHDC advisory board if they want to vote on the exhibits individually or as a group.

At 4:45 p.m., Mr. John Hund made a motion to approve all four exhibits and Ms. Larie Schoap seconded. On vote, the motion carried 6-0.

Insect Safari

This is an exhibit that we would have to either contract out or build in house. We planned on partnering with the K-State Entomology Department for this concept and have all readymade connections with them. Putting this project together is going to take longer as we do not have an exhibit curator and will need to put this project off to a later date.

ASTC Grant

The FHDC received an Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) grant for \$1000. We are focusing the money on ten schools outside the Manhattan area to visit the FHDC. We will be developing the application process and reaching out to schools in 2017.

Public Comment

Voices Exhibit

Ms. Rose Bacon stated the voices exhibit still needs to be updated. Because the FHDC is five years old, some of the information in the exhibit is out-of-date and needs attention as well.

Ms. Rose Bacon asked if we could use CIP funds to improve the Voices exhibit. Ms. Susan Adams asked the board members to submit a list of proposed changes to the exhibit and Mr. Roy Garrett and Ms. Susan Adams will review the suggestions and determine a cost before making a CIP request.

Adjournment

At 5:05 p.m., Mr. Ron Wilson motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Christine Benne seconded.