



Rochester Hills Minutes - Draft

1000 Rochester Hills Dr
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(248) 656-4600
Home Page:
www.rochesterhills.org

Rochester Hills Museum Foundation

*Bryan Barnett, Steven Fite, James Mallon, Stephanie Morita, Vern Pixley,
Katharine Rogers, Heather Sellick, Joe Snyder, Suzanne Wiggins;
Staff Advisor Pat McKay*

Foundation Mission: *The mission of the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation is to further the educational programs and purposes set forth by the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm.*

Museum Mission: *To enhance understanding of the past through interpreting, preserving and collecting the history of the greater Rochester area for present and future generations.*

Friday, November 16, 2018

7:30 AM

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen
Farm - Dairy Barn

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson James Mallon called the Museum Foundation Board Meeting to order at 7:37 a.m. Michigan Time.

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Bryan Barnett, Steven Fite, James Mallon, Stephanie Morita, Joe Snyder and Suzanne Wiggins
Absent 3 - Vern Pixley, Katharine Rogers and Heather Sellick

Others Present:

*Pat McKay, Museum Manager
Michele Dunham, Education and Program Coordinator
Maria Willett, Chief Assistant to the Mayor*

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2018-0513 Approval of Minutes - August 17, 2018 Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Meeting

Attachments: [081718 Museum Foundation Draft Minutes.pdf](#)
[Minutes Resolution.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Wiggins, seconded by Fite, that this matter be Approved as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 6 - Barnett, Fite, Mallon, Morita, Snyder and Wiggins

Absent 3 - Pixley, Rogers and Heather Sellick

Resolved, that the Minutes of the August 17, 2018 Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Meeting are approved as presented.

MUSEUM UPDATE

Exhibit Update:

Mr. McKay provided an update from Flutter and Wow on the exhibit design, fabrication and installation. He stated that a spreadsheet was provided that lists various items of focus and their funding status. He noted that the idea behind the new exhibits is to create more multi-purpose space inside the building and a stronger story about the Van Hoosen Family. He explained that walls from the museum store and log cabin room will begin to come down in January and February, and he commented that there will be three or four months where the museum will have open space as we wait for the new exhibits. He mentioned that several pop-up temporary exhibits will fill the space, including an exhibit from the American Medical Womens Association on the involvement of women in World War I.

Ms. Morita questioned whether the exhibit featuring the Potawatomi hunting grounds had been funded. She stressed that the Mayor's Diversity and Inclusion Committee is looking at changing the narrative of the City to relate the idea that there was an entire culture here before the earliest settlers.

Mr. McKay responded that a \$15,000 grant was obtained from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the museum was trying to find matching donor funds. He commented that the silo area containing that exhibit is still on the wish list.

Ms. Morita stated that this needs to become a priority and perhaps Council could be approached to find additional funding. She suggested that the silo area could be dedicated to the indigenous people and Flutter and Wow be asked to change the focus of the area to be more expansive to the cultures that were here before the Europeans. She noted that the exhibit should be ready for any ribbon cutting event.

Mr. McKay noted that the Annual Appeal for fundraising has gone out and may yield funding for the exhibit. He mentioned that Cranbrook has much information on how important women were in the native American tribes and this could be incorporated into a discussion of women in leadership.

Museum Visitor Special Issue - Brooklands Fire Department:

Mr. McKay reported that a Special Issue of the Museum Visitor publication focuses on the Brooklands Fire Department. He explained that the area relied on the City of Rochester and the City of Utica to provide fire protection, and 12 men got together and raised funds to buy a fire truck and become fire fighters to protect the area. The publication tells their story.

2019 Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Museum:

Mr. McKay noted that he and Michele Dunham are working on confirming the list of events for next year's 40th Anniversary of the museum. He mentioned that the Friday night film festivals will continue in February, and March will focus on Women's History. He noted that they have been working with Tom Talbert to arrive at a logo to use to promote the year-long event.

EQUIPMENT BARN

Mr. McKay reported that a retaining wall that was in place for the original equipment barn collapsed after a day of rain, and DPS staff were able to stabilize the area. He noted that the wall was not being kept as a part of the rebuilding of the Equipment Barn. He stated that Jackie Hoist, H2A Architects, has been engaged to begin the design, and he noted that the process will look toward what can be done to phase the work in a similar strategy to what was done with the Calf Barn. He commented that the goal is for the barn to be kept on the same original footprint.

He mentioned that the focus will be to determine a bit more accurately what the cost projections could be, and he noted that several City projects have come in with costs higher than projected. He stated that the museum will attempt to see what can be done to push the project forward.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. McKay reported that grant funding was obtained to install new shades in 39 windows in the farmhouse to prevent any additional light damage from occurring.

He mentioned that furniture has been replaced in their original locations and items that were accumulated over the years that were not a part of the Van Hoosen story were removed. He noted that tours of the farmhouse have now changed to allow more individual exploration of the various rooms.

BROOMFIELD LEADERSHIP EVENT

Mr. McKay noted that a similar situation has occurred as last year, where invitations were extended, however, no speaker was secured.

Ms. Willett noted that several names were discussed in a meeting with the Mayor, Mr. Talbert and herself, including Tony Michaels of the Parade Company, Tom Wilson, CEO of Olympia Entertainment, or Jenenne Whitfield, the newly-appointed CEO of the Heidelberg Project.

Mr. McKay stated that the goal of the event is a focus on leadership.

Mayor Barnett commented that an idea of regional leadership yielded additional names, and he noted that now that it is past the election cycle, others could be pursued. He suggested that if the Board had strong feelings on any speaker or other suggestions, his office would be happy to pursue them.

Mr. McKay suggested that Tim Skubic be considered as he could have some interesting stories.

Vice Chairperson Wiggins expressed her thanks on behalf of the Board to the Mayor's Office and to everyone who helped last year and continues to help this year. She noted that personal relationships and connections help in these efforts.

BRAINSTORMING AND DISCUSSION

Mr. McKay noted that he would like to take the remainder of the meeting to offer a chance for the Board to brainstorm and comment about the museum. He stated that everyone has a Rochester Hills Museum story to tell, whether it be an event they attended, or a positive effect the museum and its setting had on their life.

Vice Chairperson Wiggins commented that she, Chairperson Mallon, and Mr. McKay meet regularly, and stated that it was discussed that there is a need for six instances of contact to make a connection that lasts. She mentioned that as the museum is approaching the year-end appeal, perhaps the Board members could send a brief personal note to five or six donors each on behalf of the museum to thank them for their donation and their support.

Mr. McKay stated that a hand-written note from the Board would help build relationships with the museum donors.

Mayor Barnett commented that the impetus for the Museum Board was to be a 501(c)3 organization that would assist Pat and the leadership alongside of what the Museum staff does and help make the connections with the community that can ultimately provide funding.

He mentioned that a marker in time such as the 40th anniversary can be used to create some significance, such as finding 40 people to tell 40 stories, a campaign to find 40 individuals to donate a set amount of money each, or finding 40 volunteers to contribute 40 hours. He suggested that the Board help come up with some ideas to help benefit the museum's mission.

The Board discussed ideas for various events, and whether any advertising was planned for the anniversary.

Dr. Fite suggested that a relationship with Meadow Brook Hall could be explored to collaborate to promote the anniversary, perhaps with promotion or advertising.

Vice President Morita suggested coordinating a day of history that would include tickets to both Meadow Brook Hall and the Museum perhaps at a small discount.

Mayor Barnett stated that the museum hosts events where thousands of people visit, including the Stonewall Pumpkin Festival and the Wet and Wild Wednesdays. He commented that distributing a sticker to everyone commemorating the 40th anniversary would promote the message.

It was suggested that a celebration event be planned for the grand opening of the exhibits in June.

***Mayor Barnett** commented that he would distribute some information to the Board members through Chairperson Mallon that would help spur discussion.*

***Mr. McKay** invited the Board members to attend the Member and Volunteer Appreciation Night on Friday, December 7. He mentioned that the museum will participate in the Rochester Christmas Parade on December 2. He commented that the train exhibit will have some new features this year.*

***Ms. Dunham** commented that the museum has partnered with the school district to host their community art show in March, featuring artwork from all grades.*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- Friday, February 15, 2019 - 7:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Mallon adjourned the meeting at 8:44 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Mary Jo Pachla.

Minutes were approved as presented/amended at the February 15, 2019 Regular Museum Foundation Board Meeting.

James Mallon, Chairperson