

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on January 16, 2001, in the Vanderbilt Museum Planetarium, Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman – President
Dr. Anthony Pecorale – Treasurer
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann – Secretary
Donna deLuca Periconi – Trustee
Robert LaBua – Trustee
Timothy Votapka – Trustee
Bertram Seides – Trustee
R. Douglas Shaw – Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo – Director
Rita Beckman – Staff
David Bush – Staff
Mark McHugh – Staff
Leslie Tannen – Todd Shapiro Associates
Mary Talamo – Staff
Maryann Zakshevsky – Staff
Lorraine S. Vernola – Staff
Elizabeth McQuenney – Staff
Wendy O'Donohoe – Staff
Bill Dieck – Staff
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Absent:

Susan LeBow
Gary C. Fischhoff
Carl Luecke
Michael Broxmeyer
Edward J. Hahn

(Dr. Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

Good evening. This is a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. I'd like to welcome all the guests. Do we have a list of those guests in attendance?

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is there anybody who wishes to ask a question of the Board or make a public comment? If not, thank you for attending. Marge, may we have a motion to approve the minutes?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move that the minutes be approved with corrections.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Could you give us the date of those minutes?

MS. FUHRMANN:

These are the minutes from November 16, 2000.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That would be our last Board Meeting.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Yes, it is.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Did you give her a list of changes?

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, I haven't.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do you want to read them?

MS. FUHRMANN:

They're brief. I could just read them.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Do you want to get a second first or do you want me to do this?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, may I have a second?

DR. PECORALE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you.

MS. FUHRMANN:

First off, on the face page, Robert LaBua and Doug Shaw were both present at this meeting, and you have them as absent. Also, not to be picky, but my name is misspelled. Lance has a first initial of "J." On page 4, Kathy Frost has been selected as the Education Coordinator, not Educational Board Coordinator. On page 15, the "she" in Dr. Pecorale's comments refers to his wife. It's unclear in the sentence the way it is.

MS. PASTORE:

They're verbatim minutes. Whatever was said was --

MS. FUHRMANN:

I believe he did say that it was his wife at one point in that comment.

MS. PASTORE:

Okay, I'll listen to the tape.

MS. FUHRMANN:

That's all the comments or corrections that I have. Does anyone have anything else?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I have a motion on the table. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Motion passes unanimously. (Vote: 8/0/0/5 Not Present: Mr. Fischhoff, Mr. Luecke, Mr. Broxmeyer, Mr. Hahn & Ms. LeBow.)** Thank you, Marge.

We now come to the annual election of officers. Allow me to explain that earlier last year a Nomination's Committee was chosen by the Board. That committee chose a slate of officers. However, that slate of officers is not the only possible slate that can be presented. Nominations are allowable from the floor today.

DR. PECORALE:

I'd like to read the slate for the committee. For President, Dr. Steven Gittelman; 1st Vice President, Gary Fischhoff; 2nd Vice President, Carl Luecke, who has indicated he would serve only one year; Treasurer, Tony Pecorale; Secretary, Marjorie Fuhrmann.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Let me state that the officers do hold their positions for only one year. This is a one-year term of office. Do I have nominations for any of those officers?

MR. LABUA:

Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we accept the slate of officers as presented.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll second that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I have a motion on the table. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Motion carries unanimously. (Vote: 8/0/0/5 Not Present: Mr. Fischhoff, Mr. Luecke, Mr. Broxmeyer, Mr. Hahn & Ms. LeBow.)**

MR. LABUA:

Is it appropriate for the Secretary to cast one ballot?

DR. GITTELMAN:

You could do that. We did it unanimously. It's the same thing. You're right, though, we've always done it where the Secretary casts a single ballot, but having already taken the vote, it will suffice. Let me thank the committee for its hard work. I should bring attention to the fact that there was a change in the 2nd Vice President from Harlan Fischer to Carl Luecke. That change was brought upon by Mr. Fischer's resignation from the Board of Trustees. Public Relations' Report.

MS. TANNEN:

I'd like to say good evening to everybody. Happy New Year. It's nice to see you in 2001. As you can see, we have a pretty voluminous report here tonight because it represents two months. We have an equally voluminous quantity of video to look at. So if you would like, we can just take a little snippet of each one in the interest of not being here all night or you can just indicate to me when you've had enough. The first one is the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" going back to the beginning of November, which was one of the really terrific children's productions.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can we just see one iteration of each? Would that be possible?

MS. TANNEN:

Yes.

VIDEO PRESENTATION 7:30 P.M. – 7:45 P.M.:

11/2/00	News 12	Legend of Sleepy Hollow
11/2/00	News 12	Magician Performs Live
12/12/00	News 12	Holiday Living History Tour
12/21/00	News 12	Hawaiian Children's Class
12/22/00	News 12	Christmas Day Eclipse
12/22/00	WLNY-TV	Christmas Day Eclipse

MS. TANNEN:

That's it for the videos. Mark also did some spectacular radio interviews on CBS and WXHU. We have some nice coverage in the daily newspapers as well. In particular in the Long Island section of the "New York Times," Barbara Glattner gave some very nice recognition to the Children's Theater that takes place here under the Arena

Stage Players. There was also a very nice piece in the "Daily News" starring Lance and Florence Ogg regarding the mansion decorated for the Christmas season.

MR. MALLAMO:

I must say that Florence's participation went above and beyond –

MS. TANNEN:

Absolutely. Yes, it was. It was very spontaneous as well. We have a tremendous amount of coverage in the weekly newspapers concerning anything and everything going on here. That's basically it for the moment.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you very much for that report. Are there any questions or comments?

MR. VOTAPKA:

Just for reference, if anyone has been watching the history of jazz documentary on 13, last night there was a reference to Cornelius Vanderbilt's grandson, Mr. Hammond. You would know this better than I, but apparently he was featured in the presentation as being a very big supporter of jazz in the Harlem area in the early 1920's. It's nice to see references coming out of the woodwork. It didn't mention the Museum or the staff, but it was nice to see the name out there.

MR. MALLAMO:

I know I turned on "Home and Garden Channel" last night, and their show, "Dream Builders" was on Fisher Island, which was the Vanderbilt home in Florida. They had a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt at the Vanderbilt Mansion, episode 704, if you're ever watching.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What time of night was this?

MR. MALLAMO:

It was on at eight o'clock, but I didn't tune in specifically. I'm just flipping the channels, and there it was.

MR. VOTAPKA:

What's interesting of the report was that he shocked the rest of the world in terms of the social structure. He removed himself from the social register in order to hang out with the jazz musicians in the lower echelon, as it were. It was an interesting presentation.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

On the same note, if anyone was listening to "Prairie Home Companion," I guess the original broadcast was three weeks ago and the rebroadcast was two weeks ago, there was a whole piece on the Vanderbilt's and Mrs. Astor's 400. It was a skit that must have gone on for 15 minutes about the house on Fifth, the house here on the Island, and Mrs. Astor's attitude toward the Vanderbilt's and their attitude back. It was funny.

MR. VOTAPKA:

I might be able to find a copy of that script on their internet site. I'm a frequent fan of that show, and they have their own site. They usually enter their scripts for anyone who wants to see.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I hadn't thought of trying that.

MR. VOTAPKA:

You said it was about three weeks ago?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Yes, I think the original was three weeks ago, and the rebroadcast was two.

MR. VOTAPKA:

I'll look it up. If it's printed, I'll send you a copy.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any other comments or questions about public relations? I thank you very much.

MS. TANNEN:

You're welcome.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Let's go into Education and Exhibits, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you. First off the bat, a piece of housekeeping. I personally have a new e-mail address. I have gone to MEFUHRMANN@HOTMAIL.COM. My son moved me over so that's where I am.

DR. GITTELMAN:

MEFUHRMANN@HOTMAIL.COM.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I should be there for a while. There was a good reason for changing. Our dial access provider was discontinuing service, so we went to a cable modem, and this is where we ended up. That was my personal housekeeping note.

Again, let me just say as Secretary, if anyone should do what I did, which is move e-mails or whatnot, please let me know so that I could disseminate it to the other Board Members. Thank you.

Now on to Education and Exhibits. Okay, Education and Exhibits Committee met this evening. Betsy's big push right now as the Director of Public Programming is that she is re-cataloguing for the reaccreditation of the Museum the ethno-graphic collection. As some of you may recall, Carol Hart had started that project and Betsy is working on it. She and Lance have been interviewing curatorial candidates for our openings and will present their recommendations to the Personnel Committee.

Kathy Frost, the Director of Education, is currently in conversations with Cablevision regarding installing a cable modem here on site. Though we are neither a home nor a school, it is possible that we may still qualify to get a cable modem in here. She is working with an EVP at Cablevision who is in a position to make that decision. We

should have a determination shortly. If not they are investigating other ways of connecting.

As we announced last month, Kathy Frost has been appointed Director of Education. Elementary schools have already been sent the February vacation week program. I believe everyone should have a copy of it in their package. I believe it's on green paper. It gives what is going to be done each day, how to sign up, and various costs.

The April vacation program is in the works. The programs will be done the week prior to Easter, as that is the week that most public schools have off. They realize that parochial schools have the week after Easter, but we can only run it for one week.

The summer programs have already begun the planning stages. The theme this summer will be a trip through Polynesia. They will be learning how to hula dance. They will be studying the myths, constructing volcanoes, kite flying, and things of that nature.

A letter was sent to all the Suffolk and Nassau County camps regarding one-day programs here at the Museum for the camps to use next summer. They are already receiving feedback and telephone calls to book time for these programs.

Something that the Reaccreditation Committee has stated that they would like to see is evaluations. An evaluation sheet, which I believe you have a copy of, has been provided to teachers. From analyzing the results of these evaluation sheets, one problem area has come into focus and is being dealt with, and that is the pre-visit materials are not being disseminated in the most efficient fashion. Kathy and Betsy are both working on resolving that. It seems to be more of a problem internally within the schools than between the Museum and the school.

Also in your packets, you should have a graph showing the increase in population for school programs from 2000 back comparing it to 1999. In summary, in 2000, 24,562 students attended programs at the Vanderbilt Museum and generated \$160,546 in revenue. This is going to be broken down by Legislative District and forwarded to Suffolk County Legislators.

I also have a pile of what we affectionately call love letters, which I will be sending around for the Trustees to take a look at. They're cute. The twin daughters of Senator Kemp Hannon from Garden City were here for a program, and their teacher has approached the Senator regarding obtaining State funding for the Museum.

Next Sunday in Newsday there will be two ads for two new educators to replace two who have resigned.

David, the gentleman at the controls, has finished all the new music for the Planetarium programs.

In the second week of December the Goto got a complete overhaul maintenance. It's working better now than it has in years. All the little difficulties have been cleared.

The Christmas show has ended. It ended last weekend and was very well received. They have a new public show called the Native American Moons. It's adaptable in that you can add or delete various moons. They will be adding tie-in the sixth grade educational programs so that can be part of the package for sixth graders.

The new educational program, which we highlighted last month on the solar system, is going like gangbusters, and that's a quote. By next September, a new constellation show should be ready to be presented for public view.

Currently the staff of the Planetarium is looking for an upgrade to their digi-dome software. The cost is \$895, and that has been approved by Lance. This is the software that allows them to fit the artwork into the dome as it stands.

We want everyone to look around the lobby of the Planetarium and notice all the work that has gone into it this past month. There are stars and moons on the floor, the new painting, the new sealants, the new lettering, the new signs, just a general upgrade of the area, including the icicle work. We wanted everyone to notice that.

We're very pleased to announce that Eric Tilenius has presented a \$5,000 gift to the Planetarium from the Tilenius Charitable Trust. Part of that is where the \$895 will come from to upgrade that software.

Education and Exhibits would also like to thank Tony Pecorale for his 1930's projector that he has donated to the Museum. We would like to thank Bob LaBua for the dining room table, which he has donated, which has been refinished and is now in the guides' room. They are very happy to have it. That's the end of my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any comments or questions? If not, thank you for that report.

MR. LABUA:

That was my grandmother's table, by the way.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Was it?

MR. LABUA:

Yes, from before the 1930's.

MS. FUHRMANN:

They love it. They really could use it.

DR. PECORALE:

Each Trustee has a copy of the Treasurer's Report. You have actuals through the end of November.

MR. LABUA:

Tony, I have two. Which one is the one?

DR. PECORALE:

The one that says Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Treasurer's Report for the Year ending 2000 that has actuals through November.

MR. LABUA:

I have two of them. What's down in the lower right hand corner?

MR. MALLAMO:

Maybe they're the same thing.

DR. PECORALE:

It says seventy-six, nine forty-seven.

MR. LABUA:

Okay.

DR. PECORALE:

I think everyone should note that the Museum is paying its bills on a timely basis. Although we will not have a substantial carry-over, we will have a carry-over.

I'm pleased to announce that it appears that we're going to meet our projected business plan as well as be within our expense ratio for the year 2000. Does anyone have any questions? We'll be happy to answer them if there are.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Under donations and gifts –

DR. PECORALE:

The donations and gifts, I think you'll notice they're considerably below what we had estimated to be. We think there are a number of reasons why that occurred, but we are hopeful to be able to pull that up next year. We just didn't get the kind of grants and things that we had applied for and were hopeful of receiving. You can note a considerable increase in the in-kind income.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:

And actually, this is low because there were some additions there that we have not concluded yet. I think you will see a significant increase in that.

DR. PECORALE:

I should also add that we have been steadily increasing in our memberships too. The new letters have just gone out, and they did pick up some additional new members.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Special events did well.

DR. PECORALE:

Yes, it did.

MR. MALLAMO:

And the Museum store is doing quite well now. Actually when you consider we were really closed several months in the year 2000 while we rehabilitated the space -- just as an example, I think this weekend we did do over \$1,700 in business at the gift shop, which is phenomenal for us.

DR. PECORALE:

We're expecting that that's going to increase over the next year.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, and as you can see, we're getting new deliveries all the time. We just got the telescopes in last week. Was that one telescope \$560?

MS. BECKMAN:

Six forty-eight.

MR. MALLAMO:

So we're getting some higher ticket items.

MR. SHAW:

Tony, I wonder if under income, just from an accounting standpoint, endowment, donations, and gifts, should they be called earned income or unearned income?

DR. PECORALE:

Donations and gifts?

MR. SHAW:

Donations and gifts and the return on the endowment.

DR. PECORALE:

Well, they are really two separate things. The return on the endowment is the million-dollar guarantee.

MR. SHAW:

I understand that. My point is that endowment and donations and gifts are not earned income. They're unearned income.

DR. PECORALE:

Okay. You'd like to see that separated out.

MR. SHAW:

Well, I just want to make sure that for accounting purposes it's done that way.

DR. PECORALE:

Definitely, our auditor makes that delineation.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Additional questions?

DR. PECORALE:

Actually, we have been very pleased with the educational programs. It's starting to get to the point that we had always envisioned and always wanted to see occur.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Reaccreditation Committee.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Personnel Committee.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm sorry, Personnel Committee.

DR. PECORALE:

As Lance has indicated, we are in the process of interviewing candidates for the Curator's positions. We hope that the next meeting we will be able to make a more formal announcement and provide some additional information. Kathy Frost, who is our new Director of Education, will attend the next meeting so that all the Members of the Board can meet her. That's all we have to report from the Personnel Committee.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions or comments? If not, thank you for that report. Reaccreditation Committee, Bob LaBua.

MR. LABUA:

We had our first meeting Friday. You have very detailed information in your packet as to the reaccreditation process. What I just handed out is a brief summary of what it's all about. The goals of a reaccreditation is the achievement of an accreditation by the American Association of Museums is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance in public accountability. The process provides a thoughtful framework through self-study and peer review for assessing how well a museum meets current standards and continues to engage in institutional improvement.

Two core questions guide every accreditation review. The first question is how well does the museum achieve its stated mission and goals. Two, how well does the museum's performance meet the standards and practices as they are generally understood in the museum field.

I apologize it's a little difficult to read on the left side, but the original of this is really in color. It's a little bit different when it's in black and white.

The description is that once initiated the reaccreditation process continues over the next twenty-seven to thirty-six months. The various phases of the process include a self-study phase, which is the first phase, fifteen to sixteen months. The Visiting Committee phase is eight to sixteen months. The final decision time takes four to six months.

The first milestone to reach is the completion of the self-study phase. The mandated completion date for this phase is November 2001. Since we have already received our reaccreditation package in November of 2000, we have twelve months from that time to complete our self-study. The self-study is a challenging internal examination designed to gather detailed information about all aspects of the museum's operations, mission, and goals.

The team resources that are required to achieve this involves a Chairman of the Accreditation Committee, the Executive Director, various staff as designated by the Executive Director, and support and outside services as required. I presume that as last time we required an outside photographer to come in and take numerous pictures. We're going to need that again because there have been a lot of improvements, and we want to show the difference between what it was the last time and what it is now.

The current status, if you just skip that page and go to the last one, what I did was I took a listing of all of the documents that are needed in the self-study. For the next meeting I will fill in what has been completed, and what has not been completed will remain blank. A lot of these documents we already have because we prepared them for our last accreditation process. It should be easier this time, but it will be an effort to meet this by 10/1/2001. That's when I estimate that we would need all of these documents ready to go for review so that we can submit them in November to the appropriate authority.

After they get it, they have a couple of months to look at it. They arrange for a visit by the Visiting Committee. Then when they come here, they will try to verify the facts that we put down in our self-study and make sure that what we said we're actually doing we're doing. Then they prepare a report and send it to the committee. Several months after that they make a decision. Each month we will whittle down that list of documents that need to be required for our submission. I have tried to break it down so that you can actually see the progress and know what has to be done and what has already been completed. That's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Questions? At some point, we should review our weaknesses.

MR. LABUA:

In your packet you have a letter from the American Association of Museums to former Director Alison Sanchez. They do have the Visiting Committee's report. It does describe the things that they felt needed improvement. We discussed that at our last meeting, and we are working on showing them what we have done to correct those.

MS. PERICONI:

Where is that in the packet?

MR. LABUA:

This letter from – it's multi-page. It wasn't in your packet?

MS. PERICONI:

No, I don't have it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, nobody has it.

MR. SHAW:

I have it. I have two, so I'll give you one.

MS. PERICONI:

Thank you, Doug.

MS. FUHRMANN:

What about the rest of us?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Primarily the objections from the AAM were, as I recall, that they were concerned about some continuity in leadership. They were concerned about governance as being the two primary areas of issue. Continuity of leadership related to the fact that we had had a sequence of new directors and that the board turned over very quickly as did the presidency of the board. Governance was tied into the relationship between the Legislature and the Board of Trustees. They were concerned that the Board intermingled too much in the actual management of the Museum.

However, we have established a pretty solid hourglass shape management structure where we deal pretty directly through Lance. I feel that certainly in our papers, Lance's staff will be able, and we will be able to bring that message across.

I also feel that in terms of the County Legislature, they performed very well in their role. For one, in terms of funding the institution and, secondarily, in terms of not interfering with the institution. So I think those two grave concerns will be in our favor. Of course the track record, whatever it was that we promised to do, and Bob and I were both there when the promises were made, the commitments or projections of what would happen have all come true. They were all good projections. So this particular time we are hoping to go back for not a five-year extension but a normal ten-year. Every five years is a bit of a strain. Are there any other questions?

I'm sure from now on throughout this year, we will be hearing a monthly report and have a monthly discussion on these issues. Okay? Thank you very much, Bob, for that report and thank you for your work. Director's Report.

MR. MALLAMO:

First, I wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope you had a great holiday.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Made better by you.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, thank you. As I announced at our Trustees' dinner, our entire Capital Program for the year 2000 was approved by the Legislature including, which I did not have at the dinner but was passed a week later, the beginning of the project to replace the Goto projector in the Planetarium. We got the \$100,000 to hire consultants to initiate a study of what equipment we will require to upgrade our facilities here in the Planetarium. That's a \$3 million project, which we anticipate will take place over the next two years. This is phase one of that. We are very excited. We're preparing an RFP now, and we have identified several different consultants that we hope will participate in the bidding on the project.

The year 2001 is the 30th anniversary of the Planetarium. We are planning a bang-up year. We're going to change our sign outside from 50th anniversary to 30th anniversary and move it down to this building. We're going to have a special opening day event here at the Planetarium; a big space festival and special shows. We're just working on the planning of that right now.

We're very excited here. I think the lobby really speaks for itself. The renovations here were a team effort. For very little money we had buildings and grounds, educators, the Planetarium crew, staff from the business office, the gift shop, everyone contributed to upgrade this. We found that the gift shop looked so good, that the lobby looked dowdy. We had a lot of activities in December. We had so many stains on the rug that the cheapest immediate solution was to paint stars on it, which was immensely successful. We painted the front of the shop and the doors. We got new lettering.

We put a quick exhibit together with the help of Attila Hejja, who is an artist to NASA specializing in space shuttle art. Attila and I have known each other for a number of years. He was able to get this oil painting loaned to us from NASA for the lobby. We have a number of his postage stamps that he designed for the Postal Service. He has donated the original posters to us, so those are on exhibit here as well.

For the 30th anniversary we're planning where the butterflies are right now, we're going to do an exhibit on the construction of the Planetarium showing why it was built, what was here before the Planetarium, the original plans, and some of the original photographs. So we think it's going to be a great year for the Planetarium and one that will help us look at our past and yet plan for the future with the new Goto projector.

I'm now working on the 2002 to 2005 Capital Budget. That's due at the County Executive's Office by January 31. So if anyone has any ideas for new projects, please feel free to give me a ring.

We are just in the process of completing a performance review of all Museum staff. I'd say we're about 90 percent complete right now. We have implemented the salary adjustments that were planned for the year 2001. We had budgeted for these in our planning year, and the budget was approved. So we are implementing those as of January 8. That's my report for tonight.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Questions or comments? Marge?

MS. FUHRMANN:

You were referring to the new Goto. Are you settled on a Goto or still looking?

MR. MALLAMO:

No, the name of the project is called replacement of the Goto projector.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I just wanted to clarify that we're not zeroing in right now on a Goto.

DR. GITTELMAN:

However, if you can get us one appropriate for \$100,000, we'll take it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

If I could do it, I would.

MR. MALLAMO:

That's a very good point, Marjorie, and I'm glad you brought it up. We will be looking at a number of different not only manufacturers but also technologies for what we replace the equipment with.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Anything else? The President's Report. The bad news, as you all know, Rick Lazio is no longer in office, and on the last day of closing the budget our \$400,000 appropriation died on the House Senate Conference floor. Actually, it died between the President cutting \$4 billion, and we were part of the \$4 billion. Quite frankly, to my knowledge, almost all of Rick's projects were cut. I was pretty disappointed about that, but there is nothing I could do about it. I met with Steve Israel to discuss continuation of putting the project in and I'm hopeful. We'll see.

I appreciate very much the vote of confidence in voting me for an eighth term as President represents. I'd like you all to know what it is that I plan to do during the year 2001, what my main area of focus will be.

Clearly, I will be focusing on the waterfront. That's a project that has always been in our long-range plan. It's something that we have always said was necessary for the completion of the institution. So I am pursuing the money for the restoration of the seaplane hangar, a boardwalk, and perhaps a dock that will complete the waterfront in a way that will complete a circle of traffic throughout the institution. Along with that comes an exhibit that we are planning to travel first and then put into the seaplane hangar as its first Long Island venue.

I also, of course, will be focusing with the committee and Bob LaBua under his leadership at reaccreditation. My comment on reaccreditation is this, it is a tremendous learning tool. If we approach it and each of the tasks that they give us with the mindset as to what they really want us to achieve, what they want us to have done, we will improve our institution. They constantly raise the bar. I have seen that at every institution that I speak with, that they feel they're all set to go because they were as good as they were last time, and then they have trouble when they get there.

They are looking for improvements in the institutions that get the nod. They are looking for us to prove our improvements. So we will have to examine ourselves. The self-study is a very important, very healthy exercise, though a long difficult one but certainly something that you want to do. It memorializes your improvement, and it makes you focus on it. Plus it makes you ask hard questions in a satisfactory fashion and has it reviewed by experts who have seen quite a few other institutions going through the same stretches. So I think that reaccreditation is an extremely healthy pursuit for this institution, and I look forward to the challenges that it represents.

Perhaps my last goal of greatest importance is that I feel that the President of the institution should be focused on the pursuit of major gifts. This becomes more and more possible as the institution raises the bar of its own quality. If we were to receive promising indications on reaccreditation and being in the midst of reaccreditation if we were to get our first large gift, large gifts are often followed by other large gifts. I would like to pursue that. I certainly pursued one with Rick's grant and failed. I have the Roger's gift. I hope I can retain it.

I have every intent of pursuing other gifts and would greatly appreciate any assistance any of you can give me toward pursuing prospects. I'm very anxious to pick up and run with that ball, if you would. I think by the end of this year, I'd like to see us retain the Roger's gift and add one other large gift, at least, to our coffers. I think, number one, we have to get in the habit of the pursuit. Number two, I think it would be a healthy thing to show reaccreditation and the Legislature.

Of course, one of my other responsibilities, which are now considered day-to-day, is working with Lance on daily problems and of course working with the Legislature on capital appropriations and anything else that they see fit.

Are there any questions? It's been the job. It does change. I'm very excited about the waterfront. I'm excited about the exhibit. I'm excited about bringing what is now a six year old, borne in 1995, capital program to approaching completion. It will not be completed, however, until the Goto projector is taken care of. We are now some \$18 million through a \$24 million objective, and I would like to see the entire \$24 million achieved. Perhaps we will not get all of that this year, but within a few months we will certainly have a pretty good fix as to whether we'll be getting perhaps two or three million of the remainder. In fact, we are on the docket for the end of this month, by the 30th of January, to see what happens with the waterfront. All of this is in the near term, not the far term.

MR. LABUA:

Have the plans been prepared for the waterfront yet or is that still –

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have planning money. We should have an architect –

MR. MALLAMO:

For that aspect, for the preliminary plan, it has been done.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have a preliminary plan, story boards, and we have shown them to you in an informal way at the Trustees' dinner, some of the plans that we had put together. There are other plans. Tim Votapka helped us on some storybook material. We have presented it to more than one group. We're just looking for other folks to present it to. If there is some company out there that you feel would be an appropriate partner, send us running. We have a presentation together. We have nothing but good feedback. We have presented it to Computer Associates. We don't know what's going to happen with that. We're hopeful. We were successful with the Rogers. We'd like to go for more.

MR. LABUA:

What's the estimated cost for that project?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Quite frankly, the dinosaurs are exhibitable as they are. In fact, they have been on exhibit in Chicago for the past three months. It's not like the dinosaurs themselves don't represent an exhibit. They're on exhibit. They were in what was called dino-fest in Chicago. They will continue to travel the country until we're ready to take them back. So it's not that we don't have an exhibit, but what we have is a dinosaur exhibit. We don't have anything a step above that.

Frankly, I think we are looking for strategic partners. Our approach to Computer Associates was, would they become the software partner to taking the exhibits to the next level, but we do have the Roger's money for completion of a really terrific exhibit. It would not reach, shall we say, pioneering levels on just the Roger's funds. It would be a wonderful exhibit. I'm sure we'd all be proud to have it here, but it would not get us national attention in terms of pioneering new exhibit techniques. That's really the goal that we have for the exhibit, to be highest in quality.

As far as how much will that cost, the more money we raise, the more we can achieve. But I'm not only interested in raising money for the exhibit. I'm more interested in raising money for the Museum. There are a number of projects here, which I think are going to happen due to the capital improvement money, but there are a number of other projects. For example, the one that died with Rick was a wonderful project that I would love to have seen taken place, and I thought it would or I wouldn't have constantly mentioned it to you. It just didn't happen. Maybe we could bring that to light under other grant proposals. I want to see in the year 2001 a stream of proposals coming out of this institution. I want this institution to have a number of grant proposals constantly in the fold so that we can track their progress as much as we track the lines in progress toward reaccreditation. I think we just have to do that.

We have a lot of friends. We have great publicity. We have a good reputation. We're going for reaccreditation. We spent a lot of money and raised a lot of money. Why shouldn't we get grants now from other granting agencies? So, of course, that would be part of the goal for the year 2001.

I am a little concerned about how we will raise money in a more standard fashion in terms of galas and other typical fundraising things. I am hoping to see some leadership coming from the Board as far as what it is that you would like to do. There is a limit as to what I can do. I have laid out my plan. Now I would like to hear you lay out your plans in the future. If any of you would approach me, please call or just e-mail me or give me a memo, whatever it is, but let me know. Yes, I am now suffering with the rest of you with e-mail.

MS. FUHRMANN:

But we don't have your e-mail address.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, that's true, because I won't give it out. So how are you going to do it? You can call me. Just let me know your interests. I'll be glad -- on committee assignments, I do not want to do it like I have done it in the past while everybody who serves on whatever committee it was, you're now continuing in the same committees. Please let me know what you want to do. If I give you until next meeting, I think that's adequate time and then I will start appointing people for committees. But I certainly would like to hear your interests. That's my report. Do we have any questions? Do we have any comments? Unfinished business? New business? No need for an executive session, it's been established. Motion to adjourn?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Motion.

MR. LABUA:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It carries unanimously.

DR. PECORALE:

Did the County Supervisors ever come here and meet –

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, they did, Tony. It was very fortuitous, as well, because they met in December. I was at the Legislature. The Legislature broke for lunch, and I ran back just to say hello and welcome them. Then I told them I had to go back to the Legislature and they said to wait and they passed a motion of all the Town Supervisors supporting all of our projects. So when I got back to the Legislature, I was able to say that all of the Town Supervisors had come to the Museum and were very thrilled with our progress and supported us. So it worked out very well. They were very impressed.

MS. PERICONI:

Who attended?

MS. FUHRMANN:

More importantly, who didn't?

MR. MALLAMO:

I believe every Supervisor was here. I don't believe Pat Vecchio was able to make it, but he did send two representatives, Joanne Gray from the Smithtown Town Council was there. East Hampton, Southampton, Jean Cochrane from Southold who is now the Chairman, Frank Petrone, Riverhead. I personally did not see Felix Grucci. He was not here, I don't believe.

DR. PECORALE:

Islip?

MR. MALLAMO:

I believe Pete was here, but I'm not sure. I will have to ask Rita.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Rich Schaffer?

MR. MALLAMO:

No, I don't believe Rich was here.

MS. FURHMANN:

Did he send anybody?

MR. MALLAMO:

There was someone from Babylon here, yes. It was really very well represented. Even those who weren't here, there was a representative here. So I can truthfully say that every town was represented. They were very impressed. They were given a tour through the house. They had lunch in the Lancaster Room. Some had never been here before and said what a treasure the Vanderbilt is.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are we adjourned?

MS. FUHRMANN:

We had already passed a motion to be adjourned a while ago. We're still waiting for those copies.

(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.)

SG/ap