

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

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

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman – President
Gary C. Fischhoff – 1st Vice President
Dr. Anthony Pecorale – Treasurer
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann – Secretary
Robert LaBua – Trustee
Timothy Votapka – Trustee
Michael Broxmeyer – Trustee
Edward J. Hahn – Trustee
Susan LeBow – Trustee
William Rogers – Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo – Executive Director
Florence Ogg – Staff
Elizabeth McQuenney – Staff
David Bush – Staff
Mark McHugh – Staff
Rita Beckman – Staff
Barbara Oster – Staff
Gail Freeman – Todd Shapiro Associates
Ray Ann Havacy – CSTL
Eric Patysiak – CSTL
Ann Marie Pastore – Stenographer

ABSENT:

Carl Luecke
Donna deLuca Periconi
Bertram E. Seides
R. Douglas Shaw
William Macchione

(Dr. Gittelman called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

Welcome everybody. This is a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. Do we have a list of guests that are present?

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Does anybody wish to ask questions or comment to the Board? You might ask me why I'm wearing two watches. It's because that's how I dressed this morning. If there are no questions, Marge – gone. We will move on to the Public Relations' Report from Todd Shapiro Associates.

MS. FREEMAN:

My name is Gail Freeman. I'm with Todd Shapiro Associates. I thank you all for having your pictures taken in an impromptu manner. As you see by the report, there has been a lot of good press this past month, a lot of television, radio, internet, daily newspapers, and I think a Newsday article which was especially pertinent and worth looking over, especially last Friday's. We do have two clips this evening, which I think you may be interested in viewing.

VIDEO PRESENTATION: 8:05 P.M. – 8:15 P.M.

5/11/01

NY-55

New Marine Research Facility

5/11/01

LI News Tonight

New Marine Research Facility

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Thank you also for helping us with that press conference. There is one note on that. In our partnership and coalition with Cornell Cooperative, we have now agreed with them that all public relations' announcements will have to be jointly issued by our institution and theirs. This has been a problem in the past. We now have this down and we're following through that everything will be in writing from both institutions. It's important that we have some control over the message. Marge, are you prepared to approve the minutes, please?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move that the minutes be accepted with some minor corrections.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a second?

DR. PECORALE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can we hear those corrections?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Sure. On pages 19 and 34, there is an indication that a vote was taken, but the results of the vote are not listed. And on page 25 this is within someone's speaking so this must have been what they said; however, for clarification purposes, Gary Fischhoff is a 1st Vice President, not a Senior Vice President.

MR. FISCHOFF:

You took away my promotion.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'm sorry, Gary, I had to do it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Anything else?

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, that's it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 9/0/1/5 Abstained: Mr. Fischhoff. Absent: Mr. Luecke, Ms. Periconi, Mr. Seides, Mr. Shaw, & Mr. Macchione.)**

Educations and Exhibits, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

The Education and Exhibits Committee met this evening. Personally, we would like to thank Anthony Pecorale for providing us with a SCOPE directory, which lists all of the superintendents and school addresses, etc, in Suffolk County, and also a copy of a letter sent out by another museum, which is starting an education foundation. We will also be sending out a letter along the same lines to establish our own education foundation with school districts.

The Museum is collaborating with Dowling College. They have a senior presently on board who was researching his senior project here on the north shore on boating. Dowling will be sending one student per semester to do original research here at the Museum.

In your folders, you all have notification of the next LIMA meeting. It is June 11 at the Suffolk County Farm.

The guest rooms and Lancaster Room are being paint tested so that we can repaint those with the correct paint and coordinate them with the draperies' project.

At the AAM meeting recently held in St. Louis, the Americans with Disabilities Act booklet was purchased for reaccreditation. The workshops were very good, as was the networking possibilities. For example, a gentleman from the George Eastman House was an expert on cameras. He is coming to examine our original William K. Vanderbilt camera equipment. He's going to give us the history of the equipment and then Florence will prepare them for accession.

Florence also attended a demonstration of Past Perfect for Natural History. We have already purchased Past Perfect. This would be another module for the natural history end of things. She was very impressed.

The mylar project covering the houseplants is almost complete.

Mark from the Planetarium continues to inventory slides into a computer system. He has developed and is continuing to develop a display for the lobby on solar systems on poster board where each planet will have it's own display. The display is of Mars.

He has also begun the documentation of the shows themselves to archive. Each separate show has its own booklet. It includes a script, a summary description, the complete computer program, how long everything takes, etc.

We are again sending letters of congratulation out to all the valedictorians and salutatorians inviting them to come to the Museum with tickets.

We are having a police artist come down and sketch the mummy, as she would have appeared.

The camp programs are filling up nicely. When our camp programs are full, we will be referring people to the dinosaur exhibit.

Please note that May 31 the artist of inquiry exhibit opens in the turntable. We have applied for a national marine fisheries permit so that we can get the marine samples we need for research and for our programs.

The shelf collection, last inventoried in 1981, has been re-inventoried. Staff is in the process of individually accessioning each shelf. As you may recall from past discussions previously, it was the entire shelf that was done under one number. That is not acceptable practices any longer. Each shelf will be individually done.

The Samoan canoes are being added to the old mummy room. They are being taken out of the habitats, which are not opened at this time.

If anyone would care to go see in the rose garden, the newly repaired fountain and pool has gold fish and lily pads living in it now. By next Wednesday when the T-pool is ready, that will also have fish and lilies added to it. That's the end of my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Are there any questions or comments on that report?

MR. VOTAPKA:

I have a minor question, Steve.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Sure.

MR. VOTAPKA:

Since we went through the trouble of putting gold fish in there, do we have coverage, turkey or chicken wire at night? From experience in selling things like this, people put in a lot of investment for wildlife that usually comes to dine on things like that during the night, particularly raccoons.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Raccoons.

MS. FUHRMANN:

We have to reincarnate Willie K the cat.

MR. VOTAPKA:

For a quick trip to Home Depot we may want to consider some turkey wire.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You're right. How big are the fish?

MS. FUHRMANN:

They're little gold fish.

MR. MALLAMO:

They're really quite small. We did discuss this with the water garden place, and, Bill Dieck, you can correct me if I'm wrong, they felt that the situation here, the size of the pool, raccoons might swipe their hands in, but they weren't going to jump in the pool. What we have noticed so far and the fish we got were extremely inexpensive; we haven't spent a lot on these fish, they seem to be hiding under the water lilies, which are in the middle of the pool. So we're going to monitor it. I went out and counted them today. We had 150 yesterday. Today we had 149. We're going to watch that. It is something we were thinking of, not only raccoons, but little children as well.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If you give them enough hiding places –

MR. FISCHOFF:

If they get big enough, they will attract hungry animals.

MR. VOTAPKA:

They slow down, too, the bigger they get.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We should be so lucky as to see them grow big.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Well, let's keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any other comments or questions on that report? If not, Development Committee.

DR. PECORALE:

Steve, before we go on, I don't know if any Members of the Trustees have had an opportunity to go out and take a look at it, but it certainly would be worth a trip out there. They have done a very, very fine job.

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's beautiful.

DR. PECORALE:

They should be congratulated on the work that's been done there.

DR. GITTELMAN:

There are a number of vistas that have been dramatically improved. In fact, if you look at the Newsday picture, you could see the gardens below the sundial, and that's a whole new view. We have never had that in the press. I was very glad to see a different angle of the place put in.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I have a question for Lance on my own report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Are we sending a letter of thanks to the fellow who did the repair work since he did much more than he contracted to do at no additional charge?

MR. MALLAMO:

We haven't sent a letter, but we certainly have personally thanked him.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Should we not send a letter?

MR. MALLAMO:

I would be happy to do that.

MS. FUHRMANN:

For the Board's edification, this gentleman was contracted to repair the fountain in the middle for a certain price, and for that same price, he not only repaired the fountain, but he redid the entire pool.

DR. GITTELMAN:

He did a nice job, too.

MR. MALLAMO:

He had originally given us a price for the pool that we couldn't afford, so we settled for the fountain, but it worked out beautifully.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can I have a report on how the partnership with New York Institute of Technology is going on the dinosaur exhibit toward the contract end?

MR. HAHN:

Yes, the committee has met three times and has gone back and forth with the center. In terms of the contract and its terms, I think that basically at this point we kind of have a meeting of the minds. There was a question of semantics. We were just faxed today a draft by the attorney for the center and have not had a chance to go over it. There are a few things that I would like to discuss with the committee and get their thoughts on them.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Would it be acceptable to the committee to meet in executive session tonight and resolve it? Are there enough members of the committee present?

MR. HAHN:

Yes, that would be fine.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, may I have a motion for an executive session?

MR. HAHN:

I'll make that motion.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Second?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll second it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **It passes unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Luecke, Ms. Periconi, Mr. Seides, Mr. Shaw & Mr. Macchione)** Ray Ann, did you have a presentation as to what your progress is?

MS. HAVACY:

Bill, how are you? Good to see you.

MR. ROGERS:

Thank you.

MS. HAVACY:

We thought you might like a progress report. I overheard Ed giving the last minute on the agreement. Unfortunately, and I will say this because it happened, the attorney for the center's very best friend passed away at 39 years old. So excuse the tie-up, but it's been a very difficult situation for him. I know he's spoken to you, Michael, correct?

MR. BROXMEYER:

Yes, and then I had him call Lance.

MS. HAVACY:

So the ball is rolling. Nothing major. You discuss whatever you need to. So let's say where we are.

DR. GITTELMAN:

No, let me ask you a question. Is there anything regarding the state of the contract, which I understand is near final, Ed, would you say?

MR. HAHN:

I think so, yes.

MR. BROXMEYER:

We just got the comments back at six fifty-seven.

MR. HAHN:

Some terms have been changed and there's one term that's been added that I think needs to be discussed.

DR. GITTELMAN:

So they're going to meet shortly. Is there any way in which the failure to sign this contract has delayed you in any fashion?

MS. HAVACY:

No, that's why I thought we should keep everybody up to what we're doing. We are moving forward. In speaking with Joel we didn't think there was any verbiage that was detrimental. There are a couple of changes, some of it insurance, right, Michael? I believe some of it was about insurance.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Yes.

MS. HAVACY:

So take it, and we'll work back and forth with our insurance agent. Lance was good enough to give us the name of your insurance handler.

So let's go over where we are because that's the fun part. We are moving forward very quickly. We met with the people from Todd Shapiro, the new person, Gail, who is on board with Todd Shapiro because, as you know, Leslie is leaving. So we met with her. She asked a lot of questions about the exhibit, about the types of things we would like to do.

In the meantime, we have been developing the fabrication of the ideas and activities. We're excited to say tonight to you that Steve Jacobs from Mr. Wizard's studios is the creator of our activities. That is very, very exciting for all of us. Not only is he well known worldwide and a member of the Royal Academy in London of Science, but he's a great science innovator and kid's science person. He's designing some activities based upon our discussions with the Museum that I think are truly, truly exciting.

So let me give you an example. If you remember we talked about taking one of the ideas we're going to carry into the larger exhibit, the traveling Vanderbilt exhibit, and we're going to pilot it in this one. That module is balance and center of gravity. A lot of children don't understand why that's important. Let me give you an idea of the activities. Very simply, we start off by the children getting a sense of their own balance and center of gravity. They're going to have a series of balance beams low to the ground, of course, and doing a series of activities to change how they walk across them and what happens to them.

One of the activities is they're going to be putting at the end of a pole – remember a tight rope walker uses a pole – they're going to be using a pole and putting tails and heads on the ends and different structures. Now they're the dinosaurs. How do they balance? What happens to balance? What happens to balance with just weights? What happens to balance when you add legs? Is a four-legged dinosaur better balanced than a two-legged dinosaur? What happens when you change where their legs are and their feet? Series and series of wonderful short activities, because we all know, kids' attention spans vary.

Mike Ottendorpher in the meantime, the technology person, called today to say that he is working with Mr. Wizard to interface the computer technology with the activities so that, and this was your wish, Steve, and I think we're going to be able to do it for this exhibit, the activities coincide with the age of the child. So the child

goes up to the module and punches in, my name is Steve. I am nine years old. The computer feeds to the child a series of activities they could do based upon their level. So now what an eight year old may take the rod or the balancing stick and do a series of activities different than a middle school child who is going to begin looking at weights and weight distribution. There are going to be a series of challenges. They're going to put the answer to their challenges into the computer. They're actually going to enter what they think. We're pulling some of those time to time and hopefully with Todd Shapiro's help and now some of the winners and their results.

The other thing we're doing that I'm really, really excited about in using computer technology is that we have a dig scene. Do you remember before we talked about a dig scene, and we are indeed having a life size dig scene of a dinosaur of which I will not tell you at this point, because we want to surprise you, but it's a life size dinosaur in a dig. Not a sand dig because that's not really accurate. We don't find dinosaurs like that. We don't sit there and go, "Oh, a dinosaur." It's actually stuck in stone in fossil in nature. That's what we're going to do.

As visitors come, they will chip away at this. Kids will get attached to the frame of the dig and there will be tools, different tools. We'll talk about those tools and what they are. The kids will get an opportunity to dig. They'll chip, chip, and chop away or as Steve likes to say, ching, ching, ching, ching. They'll keep going but differently than saying, "Okay, mom, I'm done digging, let's go." Now they're going to look at this thing and say, "What is it?" They're going to enter what they think it is into the computer, which will keep track. As soon as the child gets it, ding, ding, ding, "Susan got it, ladies and gentlemen. She guessed it." What will be interesting is, how much did they have to dig out? How much did they have to expose? What does that teach children? We don't want them to think that you find dinosaurs by blowing away the sand. We want them to know the process.

At the same time, pending some additional funding we're working on to try to get the hardware, we planned a distance learning theater because Lou Jacobs from Dallas is in the middle of a great discovery, if you have read the paper. They have discovered vertebrae of a dinosaur down in Texas. Through distance learning, we will have available, hopefully at this exhibit, an opportunity for guests to visit with those paleontologists on site and other paleontologists. But they're in the middle of an exciting time, so this summer they will be exposing more and more of the vertebrae.

Those are the three components that we have been working on the last couple of weeks. The building of the actual activities are based upon our meeting and the technology component. So we're moving forward. We're permitting now with the Town of Islip to make sure we have the appropriate permits. We are trying to see if we can afford a trailer system for the porter-potties verses porter-potties, if you're interested in knowing what we're really working on. We have all decided that the trailers are much nicer, a more pleasing set up. Once again, there's a cost factor. So we spoke with the person who does work with the fire marshal, fire permitting. We found out what we needed, so that's going forward, all that kind of mundane requirements. That's all moving forward. We have met with Greg Hancock, who is the gentleman from the town who does all the permitting. So that's going. What else? I think that's pretty much all.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can we possibly do Lou live simulcast on the website?

MS. HAVACY:

Wow, that's a great idea. Real time?

DR. GITTELMAN:

It doesn't have to be real time. It could be recorded. Lou would let us.

MS. HAVACY:

Oh, yes. It's a good idea. Let me talk to Mike.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What we need is a simple website. Then we would just announce that we're having this. We'll get news coverage for it.

MR. FISCHOFF:

Once it's archived, anybody could go to the website and just play on there.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Who is Lou?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Lou Jacobs is Dean of – what is his title today?

MS. HAVACY:

He's from Southern Methodist University. He's a paleontologist. He worked with us on the last exhibit.

DR. GITTELMAN:

He's a world-renowned paleontologist. He's a close friend to Ray Ann and I. He's been the President of the Society of Paleontology. He was the President when I was just leaving as the President of the Dinosaur Society.

MS. FUHRMANN:

He was the one who named the dinosaur.

DR. GITTELMAN:

One of his students named the dinosaur, I think.

DR. PECORALE:

What you're going to do is you're going to allow students to go into their computer and –

MS. HAVACY:

Computer on site.

DR. PECORALE:

In other words, they can't go from their home computer?

MS. HAVACY:

Are you talking about into the website?

DR. PECORALE:

Right.

MS. HAVACY:

Yes –

DR. PECORALE:

No, I'm talking about –

MR. FISCHOFF:

The live dig in Texas, I think is what Tony is asking.

DR. PECORALE:

Like the Jason project.

MS. HAVACY:

Right now Steve brings up an excellent idea, to have it available via video on website, but right now the plan is to have a distance learning theater within the exhibit.

DR. PECORALE:

But not –

DR. GITTELMAN:

If we could get the technology together, then we would do it. The problem is cost.

MS. HAVACY:

Cost and time.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The whole nine yards. But Lou would do it, I think, with us. If you have read the papers, this is purportedly the biggest dinosaur ever found anywhere, anyhow.

MS. HAVACY:

It's a great, great find. Bill, I'm sorry, you had a question.

MR. ROGERS:

Time frame, location, and facility.

MS. HAVACY:

Time frame, we open July 1. The Jurassic Park 3 comes out July 3, which is great for us. It's the C.I. campus, Central Islip campus. The facility so far is a tent, but we're also looking lately into an air dome. Both the decisions have to be reached by Monday to be able to order everything on time. We have a tent, but we kind of like an air dome. We're looking for someone to help us with getting that facility. The back up is a tent, but we like the idea of an air dome.

MR. FISCHOFF:

How big a tent is it? How big a display?

MS. HAVACY:

The display itself is going to be about 6,000, but we'll have a gift shop and things, so we'll need a little additional space.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Figure 10,000.

MS. HAVACY:

The tent is going to be a shade under 10,000.

MR. FISCHOFF:

So it's 100 by 100.

MS. HAVACY:

We have a parking lot. Remember Bill Robin's Hall? There is a parking lot that used to be the parking lot for Robin's Hall. It's nice because it's already there.

MR. PATSIK:

It's on the south side.

MS. HAVACY:

It's on the south side, yes. So it's there, and it's not being used. So that means we don't have to do a surface or anything.

MR. MALLAMO:

Ray Ann, if you need a good adult balance activity, maybe we could send up some cobblestone driveway.

MS. HAVACY:

There you go.

MS. FUHRMANN:

And stilettos.

MS. HAVACY:

So we're moving forward in good faith. As we have been discussing, there doesn't seem to be any major problems. We're excited. We're moving forward.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions or comments? If not, thank you very much. I appreciate it. We are going to go into executive session, Ray Ann, to review the contract. There is a possibility we may have questions. Would you mind hanging around?

MS. HAVACY:

Sure.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Now we'll go to Development, Michael.

MR. BROXMEYER:

As you can see in your folder, there are minutes from a meeting at Carl Luecke's office that we had last week on May 11. The "Cocktails with Cole Porter" fundraiser is on August 3 from seven to ten o'clock. I'm sure you're all aware of that. Tickets

for the event are \$125 a piece, and we have a couple of different levels of sponsorship. They're detailed on the sample letter that was put in your folder, which is going out to everyone. That is on the spreadsheet, which is in your folder as well. This is something that Rita compiled. She did an excellent job putting this together in a very short period of time. This is a list of anyone that has given contributions in the past, mostly focused around the event from last year.

MR. MALLAMO:

Michael, also there are contributions over \$250.

MR. FISCHOFF:

How about people who bought tickets to come to the ball? I see people that you listed who made up the sponsors, but –

MS. BECKMAN:

Gary, I didn't have the time to do that. I just did the \$250 and up. That was all.

MR. BROXMEYER:

What I would like to see happen is have a continuing-to-grow list of contributors so that we have it compiled in one spot. As more and more people contribute to the Museum for various events, we can add them to the list. They keep getting letters over and over again.

MR. FISCHOFF:

Maybe we should just build this database. Is it possible to get the people who bought tickets in time for this?

MS. BECKMAN:

I just started on Friday afternoon.

MR. FISCHOFF:

I understand. It's a long list from Friday.

MR. BROXMEYER:

The list was a complete mess before this. It was on loose-leaf paper.

MR. FISCHOFF:

We talked about doing this in the past.

MR. BROXMEYER:

This is a tremendous improvement. So this letter will go out to everyone on this list. We have also given everyone a disk and stationery so they can send out a letter to anyone that's not on the list. You could send it out personalized from yourself. I think that usually goes a long way. After you send it out, I would suggest you give the information to Rita to add to the list so we continue to make it grow.

MR. MALLAMO:

Also, one note I'll make is that the point type in the letter is 12 point. On your disk it will be ten point, I believe, to make room for the name and address without making the letter go to two pages. So if it shows up a little smaller, don't be surprised.

MS. LEBOW:

I didn't get a disk.

MR. FISCHOFF:

I didn't get one either.

MR. BROXMEYER:

There should be a disk in your envelope.

MR. MALLAMO:

Are there disks in there, Rita?

MS. BECKMAN:

Everyone got a disk.

MS. LEBOW:

I found it.

MR. FISCHOFF:

It's not there.

MS. BECKMAN:

Is it there now, Gary?

MR. FISCHOFF:

No.

MS. BECKMAN:

It must have fallen out.

MR. BROXMEYER:

This was done on Microsoft Word, right?

MR. FISCHOFF:

Which version?

MS. BECKMAN:

2000.

MR. BROXMEYER:

If you have anything lower, you will have to save it in a lower –

DR. PECORALE:

I just want to mention that for people who don't have –

MR. BROXMEYER:

If anybody has trouble reading the document, just call up Rita and we'll figure out a way to save it in another way. The food and music is taken care of. The contracts have been signed. So that's all set up. That was my greatest concern. Now we get to the fundraising aspects of it. We're hoping to get a minimum of four sponsorships per Trustee. I know that Lance has already been working on getting sponsorships. He's already sold a bunch of them. But in order to get the proper amount of

attendance and income, we need a lot of sponsorships sold. So that is my report for tonight. I look forward to all of your help. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Comments or questions? Thank you for that report. Finance Committee, Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

We have the Treasurer's report for you. It's in your folder. You have the actuals through March. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to try to answer them for you.

In addition, I indicated at the last meeting that we would have the auditor's report for you. We met with the auditors this evening. We will have the auditor's report for you definitely at the next meeting.

Additionally, we have not yet heard from the County with respect to the audit that they did. As soon as we have that information, we'll provide that to the Trustees as well. If anyone has a question about the Treasurer's report or any other information about our finances, I'd be happy to try to answer them for you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions or comments? Thank you for that report. Personnel Committee.

MR. FISCHOFF:

I don't have anything to report except that Lance and I have been discussing the fact that we need to get a search for a Development Director under way. We're going to hopefully place an ad soon in the appropriate newspaper. I know Lance has had some discussions with various people, but we're going to start an additional search soon so that we can fill that position, which is, obviously, very important to the Museum. That's it for the Personnel Committee.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions or comments? Thank you. Membership, Doug Shaw is absent. Is there anybody reporting in his stead?

MR. MALLAMO:

I can report that our membership drive continues to do very well. We have to date surpassed membership revenue for the year 2000 as of the end of April. Doug and our membership secretary, Wendy O'Donohoe, have met to develop several new initiatives. At the AAM meeting last week or the week before last, I attended one of the workshops there and came away with some really fabulous and very simple ideas to attract membership. So I will be sharing that with the committee at their next meeting.

Also, you might note that in the "Cocktails with Cole Porter" letter, for the sponsorships we are including membership in those two sponsorships. This is something we haven't done before. For the \$500 level, you'll become a patron member with full benefits for one year. In the \$1,000 for an individual or family, it's a benefactor member or a corporate membership for \$1,000 in addition to the tickets. So not only are you getting tickets, but you're getting a membership at that price. It's a good deal, and we hope to sell a lot that way. That's it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Questions or comments? Reaccreditation Committee, Bob LaBua.

MR. LABUA:

The Reaccreditation Committee at our last meeting, which was this afternoon, reviewed the last Visiting Committee report and noted their comments and concerns. The purpose of the discussion was to formulate a plan to respond to their comments and questions item by item, which Lance would include as part of our submission package from the self-study group.

We did decide that an organization chart that was included last time and was updated when Lance first came on board would have to be revised and brought up to date because it's a little bit inaccurate. So he's going to correct that for inclusion.

We need to hire a photographer to take the necessary photos that would be part of our self-study report. Lance has interviewed one photographer, has spoken to a second, and we're waiting for their prices, but he needs to seek one more. Once he gets the third bid, then we will be in a position to make a decision as to who we're going to go with. Our time frame for that is to do it by mid June because we feel that during the summer would be the most opportune time to take the photographs of the grounds, the activities, etc., and the capital projects that are ongoing to show the drastic improvements over the last time.

It was also reported that some of the members of the staff attended this AMA conference in St. Louis. They learned that the –

MS. FUHRMANN:

AAM.

MR. LABUA:

I'm sorry. They were unhappy to learn that the same committee that came last time would not be coming again. So we will be prepared to address those people when they come here with a fresh outlook on everything. We feel that there have been dramatic changes since the last time in all aspects of their comments, capital improvements, programs, governmental communications, and the relationship between the Legislature and the Board. A lot of those things have been satisfied and calmed down. We think that we are in very, very good shape with regard to that.

The gal that has been hired, Stephanie, has found some items that were not accessioned but that should be. She's going to categorize them so that we will vote on them and accept them at one of our future meetings between now and when we submit the report.

One thing I'd like to personally try and promote is, I have a close feeling for the 1928 Lincoln and that maybe we could find a sponsor for restoring that because it is really a nice piece of equipment. It would be nice if we could get that running and properly restored. What happened before was an attempt and certainly we're grateful for the attempt, but it was not really handled properly. So if anybody knows anybody that would like to sponsor the restoration of that, it's in the area of \$20,000 to \$60,000.

In summation, most of the things that we need to have done, we're in great shape. We see no problem in meeting our self-study requirements. We think that will be well within the time frame that is required.

DR. GITTELMAN:

One of the things I'm concerned with at this juncture, since you seem very caught up on the currents, but when they visit there are certain areas of the Museum that are still something that we need to apologize for. I think we ought to make a list of where our apologies are.

MR. LABUA:

We did discuss that, as a matter of fact.

DR. GITTELMAN:

And we ought to document where we think we're going to be in 18 months vis-à-vis those apologies and see if there is anything that we should be targeting as our highest priority to clear up the problem. If you could have a list for us to discuss for the next meeting, I would greatly appreciate it.

MR. LABUA:

Okay.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions or comments on that report? Thank you for that report. The committee seems to be moving along very well. Director's report.

MR. MALLAMO:

Okay, I'm pleased to report I was contacted by Fleet Bank today, and we've been selected again to participate in the Museums on Us program, which highlights major museums on the eastern seaboard of the Northeast United States. I don't know what the other museums will be. If you remember last year, we were the only Long Island museum. We were very appreciative to be considered again.

I hope if you arrived here early enough today, you saw a number of new improvements in addition to the pools. The Planetarium has been painted since the last time we met here, as have the garden walls outside. We're getting all of our new brick sidewalks installed. Those should be about 90 percent completed at least by Memorial Day weekend. We have detailed the terrace in front of the Planetarium because we're having an engineering survey done to put in a new drainage system because we had water collecting there in the past, and we don't want that to happen in the future. So that has delayed that a little bit, but I don't think it will be much longer before that is completed.

I was also told that we would be having a landscape architect come tomorrow to look at restoring the area along the walkways with new sod. The contract or the bid for the new fencing and repaving of the parking lot was going out today from the Department of Public Works.

The master gardeners, with the assistance of our grounds' crew, have replanted the wishing well garden. This is a new garden area off the mansion that we haven't addressed previously and one that sorely needed some attention. We put all new plantings around the perimeter of that area, and we'll be re-sodding that shortly.

Our Living History Program will be starting Memorial Day weekend, and we'll be focusing on 1939. We have a number of new guides. We have already started the

training session for that. That will function in conjunction with our World's Fair program, which will be our special interpretive event for the summer season. That program is well on its way, and I think we'll be very happy with the way that that proceeds. That's my report tonight, Steve.

MR. FISCHOFF:

I have one question, Lance, something that I ask you every meeting.

MR. MALLAMO:

Sure.

MR. FISCHOFF:

How's the food service coming?

MR. MALLAMO:

Funny that you bring that up because I am just finishing up – we have the estimate for the tent. I have just done the plan for how the tent is going to go, which was the final piece for the Health Department. I will be hand-delivering that myself by Friday of this week.

MR. FISCHOFF:

Do we still have a caterer or have they given up long ago?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, I believe we do. We also have a back up. I feel we have a back up. As part of that permit, one of the reasons it's been delayed is in addition to what we're going to do is the area by the turn-table that was developed will be our seasonal food service area, and then we'll be shifting to the Lancaster Room for food service during the cold months of the year. So the Lancaster Room will function in a multi-purpose way, but when we have events that involve food service it will be taken care of with what was the bathroom where the Lancaster Room – there's a bathroom, and there's a very large closet. We're going to retrofit that into a –

MR. FISCHOFF:

That will be for snacks or beverages.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, in that area I don't think it's going to be snacks so much as be a little higher end. We'll continue the tea program there. It will be for a more elegant food service than just the snack bar.

MR. FISCHOFF:

But the snack bar will be down by the laundry room.

MR. MALLAMO:

What we're doing right now, we have vending machines down there now. That is moving ahead as of this week.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Marge, did you have a question?

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, I withdraw the question. It got answered in the course of discussion.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any other questions or comments?

DR. PECORALE:

I have a question about the vending machines. Do we have an exclusive contract for the vendor?

MR. MALLAMO:

Barbara, could you answer that? I think we actually have two different vendors, don't we, on the property?

MS. OSTER:

It's the same vendor, but there is no contract with them.

MR. MALLAMO:

What do we go on a 30-day agreement? I don't even think it's --

MS. OSTER:

I think it's sort of an informal agreement that he was going to supply the machines. At any time, we can ask him to leave.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Do we get a percentage of revenues?

MS. OSTER:

Yes.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

DR. PECORALE:

You may want to contact Coca Cola or Pepsi Cola of Long Island because they have offered the school district that I'm associated with an exclusive contract for their machines. It's a very – and I'm going to use this word – fine contract with what they are providing to the school district for the exclusive rights to only have their vending machines in the school district. They're doing very well. You might want to look into it. I don't know what your usage is. That's what they're really dependent upon, what the volume is.

MR. MALLAMO:

The machines we have now and the reason we're using this guy is he provides snacks, candy, soda, and a variety of different machines.

DR. PECORALE:

They'll do the whole thing. They'll do the sodas, the water –

MR. FISCHOFF:

Ask Frito Lay. They'll be happy to put snacks in.

DR. PECORALE:

You might want to look into it. It's just a suggestion.

MR. FISCHOFF:

How much money do the vending machines generate for the Museum now?

MR. MALLAMO:

Can you answer that, Barbara?

MS. OSTER:

It's very little. We really don't have much use for it especially this time of --

MR. MALLAMO:

Actually right now for this season that room has not been available on weekends because we've been doing educational programs.

MR. FISCHOFF:

Would it pay to put some vending machines up here as people go through the gift shop?

MR. MALLAMO:

We've been selling soda and cookies. Actually over the breaks we had tables and chairs set up in here, which was extremely popular. In fact, it was a little too popular because people started to have pizzas delivered and buckets of chicken. We had to get it under control. So we finally had to put a sign up, "Sorry, no outside food." I felt like we were a Chinese restaurant. Yes, Bill.

MR. ROGERS:

Any progress on the seaplane hangar, any reports on that?

MR. MALLAMO:

I am told by DPW today that they're very close to identifying -- they're finishing the RFP for the architectural contracts on that. We have had several initial walk-throughs. I have met with the Budget Review Office last week about it and DPW. I think by the next meeting I'll have something positive to report on that, as well as the waterfront because that all went through the review process last week with Legislative Budget Review. I'm just waiting for their version of the budget to come out. The County Executive kept it in the budget. They may adjust the numbers somewhat. They were very positive to the comments that we had.

MR. LABUA:

Lance, the operation of the food concession that you're talking about, will that be operated by your staff or will it be an outside vendor?

MR. MALLAMO:

The contractor that we had was with Gold Coast Catering, who has the service at Old Westbury Gardens. We have had that from last year, and then we got sidetracked. We're still hoping to pull that together again, but I want to have that permit in hand.

MR. LABUA:

Combining that with what Tony was recommending, just be careful that one is not competing with the other because you may discourage Gold Coast from coming in.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, actually, Gold Coast's intent was to have vending machines in there.

MR. LABUA:

But then it would be his responsibility.

MR. MALLAMO:

He doesn't want to be spending time selling potato chips.

MR. LABUA:

Right.

MR. MALLAMO:

If you want chips and soda --

MR. FISCHOFF:

He wanted us to bring in the machines.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, well, we would work that out with him. We have a spot – in fact, in my plan with the Health Department it identifies where the machines are going to go. I had to provide that. They're very specific. They want to know where on the County you're putting the microwave oven. You have to be very, very specific with them. We actually even had to retain a sewage company to send a camera through our cesspools to prove where our pipes were and what our cesspool capacity was.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Don't play that movie here, please.

MR. MALLAMO:

We'll share that at the next presentation.

MR. FISCHOFF:

We didn't find any missing jewelry from Vanderbilt family, did we?

DR. GITTELMAN:

We've got plenty of missing jewelry.

MR. MALLAMO:

It was actually worth doing because it corrected misconceptions we had of our sewage system. Where we thought things were, it turned out they were changed.

MR. FISCHOFF:

I hope they were further from the building than you thought.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any further questions or comments? Thanks for that report. Now it's up to me. The point I wanted to make is that in all the years I have been here, I have not seen this many strategic partnerships in development for this Museum. Think of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ray Ann and the folks at New York Institute of Technology,

our venture to go to Coindre Hall, working with the parks and others, it really shows that we are now an accepted member and desirous to partner with. One of the best ways of diagnosing the health of an institution is who wants to be its friend. So you cannot only judge us by the services we provide but by the friends we keep. I'm very proud to see us cross that particular landmark. That press conference meant a lot to me on that basis.

Do we have any unfinished business? I will remind you that we do have a few executive sessions to go through.

MR. FISCHOFF:

I also need an executive session. We have a contract issue or semi-contract issue we have to discuss besides whatever issues were raised.

DR. GITTELMAN:

So we have a contract issue with New York Institute of Technology –

MS. FUHRMANN:

I request –

DR. GITTELMAN:

Wait, let me finish one at a time, please.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'm sorry.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have a real estate contract issue?

MR. FISCHOFF:

Yes, a real estate contract issue.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can I have a second please?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll second that.

MR. LABUA:

I'd also like to add something to the agenda, the website.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The website?

MS. LEBOW:

It's a personnel issue.

MS. FUHRMANN:

That's what I was just about to request.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We'll finish one and go on to the next. For the record, I have a request for an executive session for a real estate issue. I have a second. All in favor? Opposed?

Abstentions? **It passes unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Luecke, Ms. Periconi, Mr. Seides, Mr. Shaw & Mr. Macchione.)**

Next I have a request for an executive session on a personnel matter. May I have a second?

MS. LEBOW:
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:
All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It passes unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Luecke, Ms. Periconi, Mr. Seides, Mr. Shaw & Mr. Macchione.)**

So we will go into what turns out to be three subjects for discussion in executive session. We'll return as soon as possible.

DR. PECORALE:
I move that we go into executive session.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I have a motion to go into executive session and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstained? **(Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Luecke, Mr. Periconi, Mr. Seides, Mr. Shaw & Mr. Macchione.)**

(EXECUTIVE SESSION 8:40 P.M. – 10:15 P.M.)

DR. GITTELMAN:
We're now in open session. We have a resolution to accept the contract. May I have such a resolution?

MR. HAHN:
Yes, the resolution is to accept a contract with the changes we have discussed in executive session.

DR. GITTELMAN:
This is the contract with CSTL.

MR. HAHN:
Yes, with CSTL for the dinosaur exhibit.

MR. FISCHOFF:
And authorizing –

MR. HAHN:
And authorizing the first Vice President to sign the contract.

DR. GITTELMAN:
And that's satisfactory to all parties at this point.

MR. MALLAMO:

I think you have to include subject to the insurance provision that says –

MS. LEBOW:

It's subject to all of the changes that were discussed.

MR. HAHN:

It has not been approved by CSTL's counsel. CSTL, the representatives here, did approve the changes we discussed. Whether their counsel is going to advise them to sign with those changes or not –

DR. GITTELMAN:

Did she say that she approves subject to counsel?

MR. HAHN:

No.

DR. PECORALE:

I have a question, if I may. Should this be submitted to our counsel of the County to review? I'm asking the question; I'm not suggesting it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You could always take it as an extra precaution. We are empowered to negotiate contracts.

DR. PECORALE:

I don't have a problem with that, but I'm wondering if we should send it on to –

DR. GITTELMAN:

I would ask the committee what they think?

MR. HAHN:

I would say that it probably would not be a good idea just because time is of the essence. I'm sure that this type of a contract will not be on the front burner for the counsel for the County.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Given all that and given the changes that you all witnessed subject to the changes and to proper signature from CSTL, do you all agree to accept the contract in its current form?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I think we need a second first.

DR. GITTELMAN:

May I have a second?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll second it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Given what I just said, do you agree to those statements?

MR. FISCHOFF:

We're accepting the committee's recommendation.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Right. I don't vote typically, but I'm just registering that I would if I could vote, I would abstain for the record only because you understand that I have a relationship with CSTL.

DR. PECORALE:

Do we all need to vote in the affirmative because this just gives us a quorum?

DR. GITTELMAN:

No, you only have to have the majority of those present.

MR. FISCHOFF:

A quorum present to vote, a majority of the quorum votes in favor, that's a passage.

DR. PECORALE:

I thought you needed eight votes to pass anyhow.

MS. FUHRMANN:

We have eight.

MS. LEBOW:

We have eight without you.

MR. FISCHOFF:

We have a quorum and a majority of the quorum is required.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It passes unanimously. (Vote: 8/0/1/6 Abstained: Dr. Gittelman. Absent: Mr. Luecke, Ms. Periconi, Mr. Seides, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Macchione & Mr. Rogers)**

Are there any other resolutions or other business?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Changing the scope of the committee.

DR. GITTELMAN:

First of all, I want to thank all the committee members. You took the charge very seriously and you acted quickly. We needed fast action; you provided it. If anybody slowed it down it was CSTL, which is the way we want it to be. There were five members to the original committee.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Yes, Doug and Tim --

DR. GITTELMAN:

So if the five of you would continue on as an oversight committee for our relationship with CSTL, I would appreciate it with the addition of William Rogers, our new Trustee, if he chooses to serve. Thank you very much. Any further business?

MR. LABUA:

Motion to adjourn.

MR. FISCHOFF:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 9/0/0/6 Absent: Mr. Luecke, Ms. Periconi, Mr. Seides, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Macchione & Mr. Rogers.)**

(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.)

SG/ap