SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission was held in the Planetarium Lobby in Centerport, New York, on November 14, 2001.

The following were in attendance:
Dr. Steven Gittelman – President
Gary C. Fischoff – 1st Vice President
Carl Luecke – 2nd Vice President
Dr. Anthony Pecorale – Treasurer
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann – Secretary
R. Doug Shaw – Trustee
Donna deLuca Periconi – Trustee
Robert LaBua – Trustee
Bertram E. Seides – Trustee
Edward J. Hahn – Trustee
Susan LeBow – Trustee
William Rogers – Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo – Executive Director
Ray Ann Havasy – CSTL
Andrew Haimes, P.E. – CSTL
Eric J. Patsiak – CSTL
Todd Shapiro – Todd Shapiro Associates
Paul Perillie – Todd Shapiro Associates
Elizabeth McQueeney – Staff
Mark McHugh – Staff
Bill Dieck – Staff
David Bush – Staff
Zachary N. Studenroth – Staff
Ann Marie Pastore – Stenographer

Absent:
Michael Broxmeyer
William Macchione

(Dr. Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:
Good evening, everybody. This is a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. Do we have a list of guests in attendance?

MS. PASTORE:
Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Thank you. Thank you all for attending. Marge, the minutes.

MS. FUHRMANN:
I move that the minutes be accepted with one correction. Would somebody like to second that?

DR. GITTELMAN:
Could I have a second, please?

MR. LUECKE:
Second.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Thanks. The comment is on page six, line two. The word is update instead of uptake. It's update. That's my only comment.

DR. GITTELMAN:
All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Motion carries. (Vote: 12/0/1/2 Abstained: Mr. Fischoff. Absent: Mr. Broxmeyer & Mr. Macchione.)**

I would like to change the order that we are handling tonight and go right to the Dinosaur Committee, please. Ed Hahn, would you please give your report.

MR. HAHN:
Yes, there has been a proposal to move the exhibit to the Vanderbilt Museum. There has also been a proposal to move the dome that the exhibit has been in at NYIT here to the Museum.

MS. LEBOW:
I can't hear you.

MR. HAHN:
What part didn't you hear? The whole thing?

MS. LEBOW:
No, the last part – that we move the dome from –

MR. HAHN:
That we move the dome from NYIT here to the Museum. There has been an additional proposal to set up the exhibit here at the Museum inside the dome. The expenses for the move would be covered by the Rogers' fund to be reimbursed from the eventual income exhibit here at the Museum. So with that respect, I have a motion to first move the Dino-Star exhibit here to the Vanderbilt Museum.

MR. LUECKE:
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Thank you.

DR. PECORALE:
Is it all one motion? Are you putting it all together?

MR. HAHN:
I'll make it all one motion. The motion is to move the exhibit here, to move the dome here, and then to set up the exhibit inside the dome here at the Museum.

MS. LEBOW:
Question.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Susan.

MS. LEBOW:
Where exactly is it going to be?

DR. GITTELMAN:
Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:
We believe in the south parking lot in the area where the trailers that we stored the exhibit in last year, where they are currently. It would be in that area.

MR. SHAW:
Question.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Doug.

MR. SHAW:
Could you clarify if the loan for the Roger's fund is going to be paid back by the admissions generated, how are we going to delineate admissions to this exhibit as opposed to general Museum admission?

DR. GITTELMAN:
It should be a special fee at this exhibit. It should be a special cost center and accounted as such. It should receive an overhead, and it should receive an all-direct cost benefit, an admission fee, that which is left will first go to reimbursing the Rogers' fund for the cost of the move.

DR. PECORALE:
Call the question.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Okay, the question has been called. I have a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Motion carries unanimously. (Vote: 13/0/0/2 Absent: Mr. Broxmeyer & Mr. Macchione.)**

Thank you. Now, Ray Ann Havasy is here. Ray Ann, you have materials for us.

MS. HAVASY:
Yes. Greetings again. I thought it would be nice to share this. First of all, it's going to be a lot of fun again, and Eric and Andy and myself want to thank all of you who came and visited the exhibit. It was wonderful to see you all there. What I just thought is Eric put together some pictures, some memories, and also we have done an activity guide for the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. A lot of the teachers ask for pre and post activities. They wanted to get a packet of information to do follow-ups in the classroom. So we went ahead and researched it, Eric and myself, and created an activity guide and want to share it with you to use as it arrives here. So we're just going to pass it out and let you enjoy it.

We have lots of other things, pictures and letters from teachers as we're gathering we'll share with you. We did some teacher-training there. The data is coming off the computers for the research project. I know, Marge, you had an interest in that. So we will share that with you on the effectiveness of the technology. That is an ongoing study.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Thank you.

MS. HAVASY:
Thanks, again, folks.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I want to thank Eric, Andy and Ray Ann for coming here. Are there any questions that Board Members have that they might wish to ask at this time? What's been passed around is an album of photos which Carl has. The fishing pictures are not part of the deal, Carl. You will see photographs of both the dome and the exhibit. So for those of you who have been unable to attend, it will give you a chance to get a sense as to what's coming to the Museum. Are there any questions of any Trustee? Are there any questions from you folks?

MS. HAVASY:
No, we're fine. We will be meeting with you guys shortly. Eric, Andy and I will be with you soon to set things up.

DR. GITTELMAN:
So that resolution is passed. I want to thank Ed and his committee so far for the work they have been doing. It's been a tremendous help, and of course I want to thank Bill Rogers for his tremendous help in all of this. It should be exciting. The exhibit should be a tremendous asset for us here at the Museum because it will give us a place for additional bookings supplementing our current programs. Any other comment or question? If not, we'll move on. Thank you very much, Ray Ann, Andy and Eric. Thank you for coming.

Now I want to go back to the Public Relation's Report.

Oh, Andy, we still have your photographs here.

MR. PATSIAK:
I'll wait for them.

MR. SHAPIRO:
First, I want to apologize for last month. We didn't have a great deal of massive public relations with the media due to the World Trade Center incident. I'm sure as all of you realize, it's hard to promote certain things at the Museum when the first cause of action with the media has been the tragedies. It's been really difficult for a while. The media is starting to ease out now and doing more features and more things related to every day life. But for the last month, since September 11, it's been quite difficult to get the message out for the Museum and all the great activities for what it's done.

What I did was yesterday I met with Lance and the whole staff here, and we had a brainstorming lunch. We talked about new things happening, anniversaries happening, and different things to try to find more things to promote here at the Museum. We really came up with a lot of good ideas and a lot of good things. I'd like to share some of them with you.

One was possibly doing – the mummy will be 3,000 years old. We're thinking of possibly doing a 3,000-year-old birthday party, which can be fun. How often do you turn 3,000? So we're thinking about doing a 3,000-year-old birthday party, invite the Legislators and put party hats on. It will be a really great day. I'm sure we would get a lot of media.

Also, what's been explained to us is they took the teeth of the mummy that fell out, and they are currently at a dentist right now. They're doing x-rays and checking on the esophagus of the body.

There are a whole bunch of things going on. We spoke to the New York Times, which might turn into a really terrific story about that.

We're also promoting for the first time ever, they're going to be having holiday parties here at the Museum with private corporations. They want to rent out the rooms, which I think is really good. We spoke with Newsday, and they're doing a column in the business section about it. We will be reaching out to the New York Times as well.

We also spoke to the possibility of working toward the other Vanderbilt places across the country and setting up a Vanderbilt Association so we could do cross promotion amongst the Vanderbilt properties, like in Rhode Island and all over. They could promote us; we could promote them and possibly have a meeting with a representative of each one of the associates of the Vanderbilt homes and bring them all together here for Long Island and have a meeting with them. These ideas are not set in stone, but I would like to share and maybe get some comments from you.

I'd like to also sit down every month or every few weeks with two or three Trustees and members from our office and get some brainstorming from you about some interests in some of the things you'd like to see, some things you feel succeed or don't succeed to really get your impact and try to improve some of the public relations to make things a little better.

We also talked about possibly doing a museum pass for Long Island Museums. Florence Ogg is President of the Museums for Long Island. Slow times for museums are around February, generally, for Long Island. We talked about possibly doing a museum pass to really experience all of the museums on Long Island and pay one price for the one slow month of the year.

Obviously, when the Normandy Manor purchase is complete, we would like to do a real fabulous ribbon cutting and opening with the County Executive and elected officials.

Are there any comments from anybody?

This Friday we're doing a press conference with Mark about the meteor showers. It's the first time in 33 years. Would you like to say something about that, Mark?

MR. McHUGH:
Yes, this Friday we're having a press conference for this weekend's meteor shower. It will be the first time in 33 years that we have had a chance to see a real meteor storm from the United States.

MR. SHAPIRO:
We're inviting the media to come down. You're going to be open 24 hours on Saturday.

MR. McHUGH:
We'll be open all night Saturday and Sunday, so people can come by and see the meteor shower.

MR. FISCHOFF:
Is Saturday the big night for the storm?

MR. McHUGH:
Yes, Saturday into Sunday morning.

MR. FISCHOFF:
I'm just wondering what time I should show up for the best show.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Five a.m.

MR. FISCHOFF:
Five a.m.? Okay.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We'll come and get you, Gary.

MR. SHAPIRO:
The radio stations will be doing some interviews and questions and also on TV to talk to Mark on this. I invite all the Trustees to join in on Friday at the press conference at eleven o'clock, if anybody wants to come by.

I'd also like to introduce you to Paul Perillie. Paul has just joined our staff and will be working hand-in-hand as we work with you. Paul, would you like to talk about yourself?

MR. PERILLIE:
I did have a chance to meet with a lot of Lance's staff here, like Todd said, yesterday. Let me just say, I'm thrilled to be working on this account, which is my bread and butter. I'm so happy to be able to help you folks in this community.

Just to pick up on a couple of things Todd has said and maybe a few other things. There are a lot of terrific events, needless to say, that we could take advantage of in bringing the media out here. To your own credit, there are some things that you folks do every day without really thinking about it that I think are as effective as flashy media tools, and that is all the school groups that come in through here – I know that Kathy has said that you are quite literally booked through June. One of our efforts is to actually get a camera in Kathy's hands and have a photograph taken of the school groups as they come out. Every time we get one of these photographs we would send it to one of the local weekly newspapers that would be covering that school district.

While it's maybe not the biggest flashiest thing, it is a consistent reminder for every community on Long Island that the Vanderbilt is here, that your kids are utilizing that as a resource, and that indeed perhaps you should utilize it as a resource. So in between our big scheduled events, hopefully these kinds of smaller things will consistently keep the Vanderbilt name out there.

MR. SHAPIRO:
We could have up to two or three schools, hopefully, a week. Our firm is going to pay for the camera, so there is no expense to the Vanderbilt Museum at all to provide a camera here. We need to hit community after community, hit Oceanside or Montauk, for people to read about this, like PTA groups, school groups, and give ideas and enhances the image. We could send out parental permission passes so it could be signed by the parents in advance so there are no problems with the photos appearing in the local papers, which hasn't been done. Again, it's not the biggest media splash, but it will be consistent.

MS. PERICONI:
It's constant.

MR. SHAPIRO:
And we'll see a lot more clips on that as you guys start seeing reports on a monthly basis.

MR. PERILLIE:
Just beyond that, we know the holiday season is kicking off. I know Lance has got a lot of different programs planned. We actually want to have a big announcement of what all the events are, followed up by coverage of each individual project. We're working on getting that review for the radio show.

Other than that, I'm always here with Todd. I can always be reached. I would love to get feedback from anybody who would like to supply me that kind of thing. I'm just really thrilled to be here.

MR. SHAPIRO:
And he's a Huntington resident, too.

MR. PERILLIE:
Brand new Huntington resident.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Any other questions?

DR. PECORALE:
Steve?

DR. GITTELMAN:
Yes, Tony.

DR. PECORALE:
When Brian was handling the account, one of the things that he wanted to do is to play up the fact that the Vanderbilt's boat had actually been sunk by the Germans off the coast of North Carolina. He was planning on trying to see if he could get some recognition from the –

MR. SHAPIRO:
Congressman Ackerman. We could sit down. I'll call you up, and we'll sit down over a cup of coffee and discuss it.

DR. PECORALE:
Just the concept of that right now -- because of the patriotic atmosphere – it might be something if it's written up well, Newsday might want to feature it as an article about a Long Islander who made a donation to the Navy in a time of war. The boat was sunk, even though I think everyone was rescued, it's an interesting story.

MR. SHAPIRO:
It's a great story. Maybe I could sit down with you in the next week or so.

DR. PECORALE:
Actually, I wouldn't be the one. There are people on staff that are more familiar with the –

MS. FUHRMANN:
Florence Ogg.

DR. PECORALE:
Florence Ogg would be more familiar with the details. I think the name of the boat was –

MS. FUHRMANN:
Alva.

DR. PECORALE:
No, the boat was turned over to the U.S. Navy. I think it was named the Plymouth. He was going to see if he could get some details from the Navy about the sinking of the boat, where it was, and what the details were. I'm pretty sure it was a sub. It was doing coastal surveillance patrols.

MR. SHAPIRO:
Maybe we could do a memorial or something.

DR. PECORALE:
I think he told me the Congressman was going to get a citation from the Navy that we could have displayed at his home.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Tony, I think Doug knows something more about it.

MR. SHAW:
We have some stuff in our library about it. I'll pull that out.

MR. SHAPIRO:
Do you know what year it was?

MR. SHAW:
I don't know exactly. I would hate to guess.

MR. SHAPIRO:
That was off the coast of North Carolina. I think that's what he told us.

MR. SHAW:
Yes, it was off the coast of North Carolina. I know that. It was a sub patrol coastal.

MR. SHAPIRO:
We could probably do a memorial and maybe have Steve Israel, since he's the Congressman represented here –

MS. FUHRMANN:
No, he isn't. Gary Ackerman is. Steve is the next town over.

MR. SHAPIRO:
Maybe we could reach out and do a whole thing where we –

MS. FUHRMANN:
There's no reason not to invite him.

MR. MALLAMO:
I think it might have been 1942, which would make 2002 the 60th anniversary.

MR. SHAPIRO:
So maybe we could plan on something to commemorate the 60th anniversary. That would be great.

MR. SHAPIRO:
That's our report.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Thank you, Todd.

Education and Exhibits.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Though Todd touched on it, I'm just going to point out to everyone that you have a handout on the meteor shower that is taking place on Sunday morning. The best time is between four and six a.m. on Sunday morning. We expect 800 to 4,000 meteors an hour. The media event scheduled is Friday at eleven o'clock. Mark has done a handout, which he has shared with Todd. He'll be here all night. The Museum will be opened twenty-four hours for people who want to come up here with sleeping bags and watch it all happen.

We also want to point out to you that the new show "Planet Earth" is an educational show. It has been well received by the teacher population and students.

Over here on my right in the first cabinet, which is now kind of pinkish in color, there is a Lego exhibit of life on Mars. In conjunction with that, we are selling Lego's in the gift shop. Thank you, Dave, for setting the whole thing up.

I believe Todd also mentioned that the teeth from the mummy have been sent to a forensic dentist who is x-raying them now trying to determine the mummy's diet and specifically dating the mummy for us.

We are in the process of applying for a grant under "Save America's Treasurers" to work on the habitat. Hobart Nichols, a watercolor painter, worked on our dioramas and there has been much research being done on him at this time. He is very well known and popular painter. Unfortunately, due to the U.S.

government's reorientation on funding, the 2002 funds are on hold until they determine exactly how much they are going to have to give out for this "Save America's Treasurers." This grant program is approximately four years old.

Also in your handout you have a letter from the Chippewa Elementary School, that's Sachem's School District, on their enjoying the mummy program here. Kathy has started a review of all teacher correspondence in terms of a self-evaluation of the department looking for ways to improve things.

The programs for February break have been announced. They are "Castles" and a new one called "Coat of Arms." We do have a coat of arms here for the Vanderbilt's, and they are going to build a program around it.

We would like to thank Linda Gessner who designed and created a skirt for our mummy.

On Friday morning an Egyptologist from the Metropolitan Museum of Art is going to be coming here to read our mummy case, and take a look at our mummy and see what they can tell us about the mummy.

The South Huntington School District has begun "Artistry of Inquiry" here. They started it last Tuesday.

Four Garden Clubs have finished decorating the rooms of the mansion and the servant's quarters will also be decorated. They are decorating with the theme of 1939 New York's World Fair. All decorations should be completed by Thanksgiving weekend.

A booklet is being prepared for visitors to the Museum that describes the themes in each decorated room and includes a list of all of the activities that are taking place on the holidays.

The drapery project is under way. Consultant and fabricators were here this week finishing up final details and paint tests were tested in guest rooms eleven and twelve and in the hallway leading to these rooms so that the color and patterns can be finalized.

There is a small exhibit on the boathouse that is beginning to be put together in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Marine Studies program. It's going to be on the history of the boathouse and its construction.

Florence has also applied for a grant for a survey of conservation needs for the archival programs. This grant request will be submitted to New York State Program for Conservation and Preservation of library research materials.

Betsy has been spending 80 percent of her time identifying, classifying, and cataloging invertebrates. She has approximately 400 of them done, and that's approximately half of the invertebrate collection.

She has also been monitoring the Vanderbilt website, answering all mail, and updating events on American Towns Network website, which we are included.

I have attendance figures for the museum and school program and the planetarium school program. I can tell you that the attendance and monies generated have gone up since the same period last year.

I think that's the end of my report.

Excuse me, one more thing. I apologize. On December 10th here at the Museum there is going to be a meeting of the Long Island Museum Association, LIMA. Florence is inviting everyone to it. It's going to be about us. The theme of the program is researching your historic structures from historic houses to outhouses. There are going to be three speakers, including the fellow who came to take the paint samples that I just discussed. His name is Joel Snodgrass. You should all let Florence know if you can attend by December 3rd, and I'll just pass this out to everyone.

That should be that.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Thank you. Any questions or comments? Thank you, Marge, for that report.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Development Report.

MR. LUECKE:
There will be a meeting of the Development Committee on November 20th here at the Museum at ten-thirty in Lance's office. The reason for the meeting is that we will meet with the new Development Director. He will explain his strategy goals, and we'll start to work together. Any Board Member that can make it, we would love to have you. It's November 20th at ten-thirty here at the Museum.

DR. GITTELMAN:
This would be a good time to introduce Zach.

MR. LUECKE:
Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I'd like to introduce Zach Studenroth, who has joined us as Development Director. We're thrilled to have you. As I said, I read a wonderful article about you. I was only able to find the second page. I tried to send it, but I lost the first page. If you happen to have the first page, I would love to have it. It was a very complimentary article, especially for someone who was leaving. They were throwing no stones and making nothing but compliments. We're very lucky to have you. We thank you for joining us.

MR. STUDENROTH:
I'm very much looking forward to working with you all. These have been very interesting meetings the last couple of days. I'm really excited to be joining the team. Thanks.

MR. MALLAMO:
I think it's important to note that Zach prepared the historic structure for the Museum 21 years ago.

MR. STUDENROTH:
Approximately 1980.

MR. MALLAMO:
He's very familiar with the Museum.

DR. GITTELMAN:
That leads into the fact that Zach has a tremendous history with historic structures in Suffolk County. I see his name in a lot of places, not just here at the Vanderbilt but in a lot of cultural reports that I have come upon regarding various structures all over Huntington and other places.

MR. STUDENROTH:
I must say I believe it's to Lance's credit that the buildings here on the estate are looking very, very sharp. Not everybody gets down to the bottom of the hill, of course. There are some wonderful structures that need a lot of attention. The mansion and this building, part of the property that the general public typically sees is looking really, really sharp. I think it's quite presentable. There's a lot to keep track of. There are a lot of other buildings to pay attention to also. I look forward to it. Thank you very much.

DR. GITTELMAN:
It's great to have you. Any comments or questions? If not, thank you for that report. We'll move on to the Finance Committee, Tony.

DR. PECORALE:
Everyone has a copy of the Treasurer's Report with the actuals for September. At the present time, our financing is very tight. We are paying our bills, and we

are meeting our budget. If anyone has any questions about any of the items there, we would be happy to answer them. We are going to, next month, have two separate reports. We're going to separate out some of the donations and gifts into a separate report so that you can see exactly the break-out of the various monies that have been brought in.

At the present time, we are meeting our expenses.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Any comments or questions?

MR. FISCHOFF:
I guess the revenue for September was down for the same reason that many other places had lower revenues in September.

DR. PECORALE:
That's true, but interestingly enough, it has picked up again, and we're doing quite well, particularly with visits. Apparently, with the problems that occurred in September, more and more school districts are making local visits, rather than going into the city. So our education programs have increased considerably. Frankly, that's good because with transportation, the buses for the school districts being what they are, it would be in the school district's and our best interest to provide a good portion of those field trips rather than take the kids into the city. Of course, the approval earlier would give us one additional site, and that should increase our visits by students coming to the Museum as well.

MR. FISCHOFF:
That also gives us the capacity to handle more.

DR. PECORALE:
That's right. Something was mentioned to me the other day by one of the Legislators. Although it's not part of the Treasurer's Report, it's something we might want to consider. A number of the towns are setting up senior citizen visits into sites. This Suffolk County Legislator indicated to me that we should think about the possibility of contacting all the senior citizen groups in Suffolk County and offer an earlier evening visit to the Vanderbilt Museum for senior citizens with a specialty if they want to bring in a group almost making it at little or no cost for senior citizens. I don't know what you think about it, Lance, but it might be something that we might want to consider.

MR. MALLAMO:
I'm pleased to say that our attendance with seniors has gone up dramatically since we purchased the tram. The downside is that the little eight-seater tram we have can't nearly meet the demands that it has upon it. We did get approval last year from the County to purchase two additional trams from the program Americans with Disabilities Act to meet that commitment.

I just received two weeks ago a purchase order for the two trams, so we will now have three trams. While our senior visitation with bus tours has dramatically increased, as I said, we have hesitated to actually go out and solicit senior groups because the property is very challenging for them. I think when we have a tram fleet that can handle 24 people at one time, because the bus handles 60, then you're not keeping people sitting in a bus for an hour while eight people at a time go down. When they get here, we will certainly make that effort.

MR. FISCHOFF:
Sounds great.

MR. MALLAMO:
My own father says to me, "I don't want to go. It's too much walking over there."

DR. GITTELMAN:
The other thing is that there is no elevator in the main house.

MR. MALLAMO:
But many of them just to come down and walk through the – I'm not saying they are totally infirmed. Many of them will walk upstairs, but to walk all the way down the driveway is really difficult for many of them.

MR. FISCHOFF:
The seating for 24 now is good.

MR. MALLAMO:
It's a very good idea. We'll bring that up at the next staff meeting, and we'll see what steps we can take to do that.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Anything else?

DR. PECORALE:
Any questions about the Treasurer's Report?

DR. GITTELMAN:
Thank you. If there are no questions, we'll move on to the Personnel Committee. Gary.

MR. FISCHOFF:
The Personnel Committee has nothing to report, other than we're happy to welcome our new Development Director.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Thank you for that brief report.

MR. FISCHOFF:
You're welcome.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Membership Committee.

MR. SHAW:
I think often we look at these numbers in terms of dollars, which is certainly important. But I would like to just make you aware of statistics for the last year. We started the year 2001 with approximately 300 members, and as of this afternoon we have 646. For the month of November, we're averaging a new member every day, which I think is a real tribute to Wendy's work and her efforts.

We're considering doing a member's night during the holidays, but with everything that's going on here, we decided to postpone to the next holiday. So look for a member's night on Valentine's Day here in the Planetarium. We thought with the red planet program going, we will get Dave to do some magic and do a member's night that night.

MR. FISCHOFF:
For members and their Valentines or something.

MR. SHAW:
Absolutely.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Any questions or comments? We have done the Dinosaur Committee. We have to appoint a Nominating Committee.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Is it that time already?

DR. GITTELMAN:
It's that time already. The way it has worked in the past is that Trustees nominate Trustees to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee picks a slate of officers and presents it at the next Board Meeting. Then in the January meeting the floor is opened for additional nominations and you vote. We try to have an odd number of Trustees on the Nominating Committee, three or five. It's a matter of your pleasure. I open the floor to nominations. Carl.

MR. LUECKE:
I nominate Bob LaBua.

MS. LEBOW:
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Tony.

DR. PECORALE:
I nominate Marjorie Fuhrmann.

MR. FISCHOFF:
I'll second it.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Bob.

MR. LABUA:
I would like to nominate Carl for a position on the Nominating Committee.

DR. PECORALE:
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:
I'd like to nominate Ed Hahn.

DR. PECORALE:
Second.

MS. FUHRMANN:
We need one more.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Donna.

MS. PERICONI:
I would like to nominate Gary Fischoff.

MS. FUHRMANN:
I'll second it.

DR. PECORALE:
I move that the nominations be closed.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Second?

MS. FUHRMANN:
I'll second it.

DR. GITTELMAN:
All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 13/0/0/2 Absent: Mr. Broxmeyer & Mr. Macchione)**

DR. PECORALE:
I move that the secretary cast one ballot for the five nominees.

MS. FUHRMANN:
I so cast.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We, therefore, have a Nominating Committee of five. We ask that you report back to us next meeting with your chosen slate of candidates.

MR. FISCHOFF:
Do you need to appoint a chairman or does the committee elect one? Somebody has to pick the diner where we meet.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I'll leave it to the committee to choose its own chairperson.

Director's Report.

MR. MALLAMO:
It's hard to believe it's November already. It's almost Thanksgiving, and our months of planning for the holidays are finally bearing fruit. This year for the first time we have packaged our holiday festivities into a new program called the Vanderbilt Holiday Festival. We're trying to link our events so that they all flow in one thematic direction.

As we indicated in the past, our popular program, "The Living History" this year centered on the 1939 World's Fair is going to continue through the holiday period with the different rooms in the mansion based on different pavilions at the fair and Vanderbilt family history.

To explain that, we have not only done the decorations, but we have done a brochure to go with it so that people are able to learn some historical facts about this important period of Long Island history as they go through the house.

Also here in the planetarium we're going to be having a new educational and entertainment program called the 1939 World's Fair Holiday Review which is similar to the radio review we did in the courtyard last summer that was a

fabulous musical program, very patriotic. I think in retrospect, we can appreciate how important that was. I knew it was a great event in August when I saw it, and in light of the events of September 11, it's all the more pertinent.

We would like to continue that here in the lobby. We're bringing that in thematically based on the fact that a period between the 1939-1940 World's Fair, they were actively trying to promote fair attendance the following year. We're carrying that through, that even though the fair is closed, the New York Central Railroad and the Vanderbilt's are still behind this effort. The planetarium will be decorated as a pavilion of the World of Tomorrow. So you will be coming into future world here in the lobby. The show will be performed right here for the public on Saturday evenings.

We also, as Todd had indicated, are trying to sell this to corporations for corporate parties during the week. We have sent a letter out to several hundred area businesses in the regional area to promote this with a one-stop shopping. We provide the entertainment, the music, the chairs and tables, even tell us what you want to eat, and we'll make all the arrangements. I hope we get some takers on that. We're looking at this to not only provide a public service but also to bring in a new revenue stream for the Museum.

We have also promoted the holiday festival with sponsorships, and we have two sponsors already. The Porter Foundation has donated $5,000, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers through our Trustee, Bill Macchione, donated $1,000. So we're pleased to have that commitment behind us.

We did introduce Zach Studenroth, who I'm pleased that after many months -- of actually over a year of planning for a new Development Director has joined us. Zach and I have spent a lot of time together this week to map out what our priorities are for not only maintenance of existing programs, but also the development of new ones.

This is one that we are going to be looking at, the additional brick walkways that we're going to be putting here. We're looking at the idea of selling engraving where you can name a brick for yourself or your family for a permanent memorial here at the Museum. This has been a very successful fundraiser for other institutions and can be done very easily with the bricks we already have in place and for additional areas. So we will be looking into exploring how we're going to do that as well.

Capital projects, we recently had $645,000, I believe that's the correct number, for rehabilitation of the plumbing here at the Museum. All of the deteriorated pipes and breaks in the pipes that we have will be repaired. We will also be having underground irrigation systems to keep the lawn and garden areas looking fresh.

On December 18th, a new resolution for restoration of facades will be considered by the Legislature. This is a $700,000 appropriation that will repair areas of the mansion that are cracking or crumbling. It's not only the smooth stucco façade but the ornamental concrete that has been a source of concern to public safety over the years.

I'd also like to extend a number of invitations in addition to that December 10th, that on December 3rd we will be having a staff and volunteer breakfast here in the planetarium lobby. The number of volunteers that we have at the Museum has grown so large in the past few years that we found we need a bigger space to have our combined events so we will be holding it here. We had a very nice breakfast last year, and we would like to continue that early enough in the season to enjoy it.

MS. FUHRMANN:
What time is that?

MR. MALLAMO:
Ten in the morning.

My wife and I will be sending out an invitation to each of you in the mail inviting you to the Trustees dinner which will be Friday, December 7th with cocktails at six-thirty and dinner at seven-thirty. So please be watching your mailboxes for that invitation.

The other item I would like to bring up is the schedule for next year, which you should have in your packets. We had a tentative schedule sent out, and we did ask for comments. As I will note by his absence tonight, Bill Macchione indicated that the second Wednesday of the month he has a prearranged meeting, and he is not able to commit that evening due to professional obligations. He had requested that that be changed. So we would have to make that change according to that schedule. Do we have any other changes that anybody would like to make?

MR. FISCHOFF:
Well, I told you Tuesdays and Thursdays are difficult, but I think some of those Thursdays I might be late and other ones I may miss. Other than that, Wednesdays are good for me.

DR. PECORALE:
I still don't know my schedule for the college yet. I think you should just set up the schedule, and we'll all deal with it.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We'll go with the schedule.

MS. FUHRMANN:
So we're doing Wednesday, Thursday, Wednesday, Thursday, pretty much.

MR. FISCHOFF:
More Wednesdays than Thursdays.

DR. PECORALE:
Sometimes it's two Wednesdays.

MR. MALLAMO:
Our stenographer is committed to the County Legislature on Tuesdays, so that leaves out Tuesdays.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Lance, are you done?

MR. MALLAMO:
Yes, I'm done. That's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I guess it's my turn. Clearly on all of our agendas last meeting we discussed Normandy Manor. We were able to get the Legislature to re-appropriate funds that were designated for the Goto projector to the purchase of Normandy Manor. It was a hard argument. These are hard times. The Legislature did not want to spend the funds. They recognize that we are dependent on the Goto projector, and yet we were coming to use this money at this time. The vote seemed to go six to six, but six who reserved, and then the six went our way. We needed all twelve. It was a series of difficult arguments, very difficult questions.

Perhaps it's worth reviewing with you what we did. All of you know that the access to the Museum when you leave, when you look across the street, and these are the materials we used by the way, when you look across the street, that's what you see now. What we proposed to the Legislature, that's what you will see later, that there will be construction. What we want to have is that when you come in, you look through the columns, the way Mr. Vanderbilt did, and when you leave, you look through the gates, the way Mr. Vanderbilt did. To lose that vista was something that we could never recover. Lance did a very fine job. It's always a pleasure to work with him. If you haven't seen what Normandy Manor looks like, that's what it looks like.

We have met with the community, and we have stated to the community that our current intent is to use the house as a staging area to which visitors to the Museum will join, go over to Normandy Manor, get oriented, purchase tickets, perhaps see a film, go to the bathroom and maybe purchase some gifts and

books. It will give us a focus, a way of orienting them to the institution. I think it will elevate the quality of the institution tremendously.

We have agreed with the seller on a price. It's currently in the hands of Allan Grecco with the Real Estate Division with the County. We are told that a contract will be forthcoming and that an appraisal will be ordered immediately.

For those of you who weren't present, this was the proposed subdivision plan. Now we are going to be left with one structure. I think this is an important landmark for the Museum. I know it's very special to Donna. She has expressed it to me many times.

MR. FISCHOFF:
You may have said something confusing. We're going to be left with that whole property. The way you said it, it sounds like we're only left with the one structure.

DR. GITTELMAN:
It comes to us the way it is. We will remove non-historic structures. We will register the property. When the property is registered, it will be protected. Once it's registered, Lance has ideas on submitting grants to retroactively recoup some of the funds. I think it's really important. We took a risk. The risk is that the Goto has to hold together.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Everybody pray for the Goto.

MR. FISCHOFF:
We know we have a working Goto now. If we didn't do this, we would have had a working Goto but we wouldn't have had the property. It's a gamble, but it's well worth all of it.

MS. PERICONI:
I would like to commend Steve and Lance for their fine efforts. This is, in my opinion, one of the most important efforts we have ever made at the Museum. I have been here since 1995. Nothing meant more to me than to be able to acquire Normandy Manor. You are to be commended for doing this. I know many of us spoke to many of our Legislators emphasizing the importance of acting immediately, knowing that the Normandy parcel was going to be sold and developed. I just want to tell you how happy I am. Having spoken to a number of Legislators, I know the difficulty in trying to convince them. It was just a marvelous effort. I just know everyone should be very proud of what we have done. Congratulations.

DR. PECORALE:
Is there any chance we can do anything about the lions?

DR. GITTELMAN:
I think the lions, at this point, may have slipped out of our fingers. We don't know where they are. The old owners are hostile. We get the impression that the lions have been sold off. We have photographs of the lions. I guess in my mind I sit back and say ninety-five percent victory.

MR. FISCHOFF:
We tried to even make them an offer, and they weren't even interested in the money. They were so hostile.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I know it sounds almost counter-culture in this place, but there are companies that make lions. They won't be identical.

MR. FISCHOFF:
I heard a gasp somewhere.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I think we have to consider getting a fine quality – something substitute to put in the place to at least give the feeling for what was once there.

MR. FISCHOFF:
I wouldn't give up hope so quickly.

MS. PERCIONI:
I wouldn't either, Gary.

MR. FISCHOFF:
Somehow they may surface from somebody who says, "Guess what I have? Are you interested?" We got the property now, somehow I think the lions may reappear somehow and be offered to us.

MR. MALLAMO:
I have been contacted by the Town of Huntington, and they are pursuing this in court. They did indicate to me that they will have an accounting on where this property is right now.

MR. FISCHOFF:
When you find out where it is, maybe we can make an approach at that point and get them back.

DR. GITTELMAN:
It would be an important purchase for us. That would make it 100 percent victory and then if the Goto stays together we'll be in great shape.

MS. LEBOW:
The other picture that you have shown of what will be, where will that be in reference to what exists now?

DR. GITTELMAN:
When we went to the Legislature, we showed them this picture. We said this is the way it looks now. This is what you see when you leave the Museum. This is what you will see in a couple of years if you don't buy this property.

MS. LEBOW:
In other words, this is what the developer was going to do.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Right.

MS. LEBOW:
I'm glad to hear that. I didn't understand what you were saying.

DR. GITTELMAN:
The gates have been retained. The lions are gone, but that's what you look at. We argued the case that the collection – we are a collection of buildings. We have a rare collection of buildings. We have only one piece of our collection missing, and we have an obligation to pursue it. It was difficult. Lance, it was, I think, one of the most difficult – it's up there.

MR. MALLAMO:
I think it was the most difficult.

DR. GITTELMAN:
If anybody wants to hear the nitty-gritty's, we would be glad to tell war stories.

MR. MALLAMO:
The plumbing project went through just like that.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Yes, the plumbing project went through the same day. This was very difficult. It was very difficult in committee. It was very difficult in front of the Legislature. I think it was unprecedented, some of the things that happened. But it is done.

DR. PECORALE:
When does the $1.2 million –

DR. GITTELMAN:
That's my next subject. The $1.2 million has – this is the latest statement from Fleet at the end of last month. So given the way the market has been, probably we're a little better off than what shows there. The $1.2 million has also had its

moments. We have met with the Finance Committee and hope we met their objections. We are hoping that we are going to be able to get the $1.2 million through shortly. A resolution is being submitted as Lance said.

This statement is not intended to substitute for the presentation from investment counsel that Carl mentioned last meeting. That's the story on the $1.2 million. Are there any questions about the $1.2 million? Yes, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:
When you were lobbying for the Normandy Manor, did you get the feeling that the $1.2 million was going to go, or were they going to –

DR. GITTELMAN:
At that point we had the feeling it was a trade-off.

MS. FUHRMANN:
The Normandy for the $1.2 million?

DR. GITTELMAN:
It was like – yes. But it wasn't something that – it's pretty tough sometimes to read Legislators. When they're in the middle of a firefight, they say a lot of things.

MS. FUHRMANN:
And you have since changed your feeling about that?

DR. GITTELMAN:
I think that the Legislature is recognizing some of our arguments regarding the $1.2 million. I think we presented the letter – did we, Lance?

MR. MALLAMO:
Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I would ask if you would take a moment on your own to look at the letter. There was a letter that precipitated that. Did I provide you with that, Lance?

MR. MALLAMO:
No.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I have it with me. So what I would like to do is have Lance make copies of this letter. It will give you a sense for the feeling as to what we have been responding to. I think when you see the two combined, you will understand how it is for Lance and I sometimes when we're working with the Legislature. Are there any questions?

I had an experience a few weeks ago that I need to relate to you. I need some help in relating this to you. Bert, will you help me out? I received an invitation to visit Bert's institution to see Bert being honored for what he has accomplished in his home town. I want Bert to tell you what he did, but I want to tell you what it felt like, what it looked like, and what it was like to be there.

So I went in and I didn't get what I expected. Number one, there was barely a seat in the house. Number two, it was adoration through the roof. These people adore him for what he's accomplished, and I think they adore him as a person. He was being honored for his own accomplishments, for sticking to a project for a long period of time, for delivering something to his community. It was the Robert H. Pelletreau Award for Preservation. It was the first award. It wasn't done like, here it is. It was done where everybody was there to recognize what he did. I felt so special to have him as a colleague that I was stunned. I could not tell them exactly what you accomplished. So would you spare me the pain of trying to recall all of that?

MR. SEIDES:
Thank you, Steve. I was honored to have you there, too. I'm honored to sit on the board here. For what I accomplished is one of the reasons why I'm here on the board. Unbeknownst to me, I was followed by some of our Legislators as to what I have been up to. They asked me to sit on the board here.

Twelve years ago, a historic building was in jeopardy of being destroyed. I, in fact, stopped the bulldozer and preserved one of the most historic buildings on Long Island in Eastern Suffolk, which has been called as one of the oldest in New York State by the archeologist. The house is a settlement cottage 1693. It's five historic building periods in one structure, one acre, got it on the state and federal register, paid for it in less than five years, developing a Living History Museum and Cultural Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.

Along with this, a swell of support grew, and we proceeded to develop a historic district, which started in East Moriches, continued to grow and consumed four communities, Moriches, Center Moriches, East Moriches, and the Brookhaven Town east of Eastport. We brought forward after nine years to Brookhaven Town the request for these towns to become historic districts affecting 917 parcels over 700 acres. I sit now on the HDAC, the Historic District Advisory Committee, along with some other colleagues in the Moriches Bay area. This was a very significant move.

We also have been working for about six years to acquire an additional five areas across from the historic Ketcham Inn. I learned this week that the Town in conjunction with the County after another six-year struggle agreed to move into an acquisition of the property. So I'd like to see that property developed as a visitor's center and cultural hub for the Moriches Bay area. It's been a terrific

exercise. I have continued to meet wonderful people and look forward to seeing it all develop.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We have other distinguished Trustees, but, Bert, it was really a fabulous afternoon for me. I thank you for having me.

MR. SEIDES:
I received a call from the Bellport/Brookhaven Historic Society, and they said that they had this award they wanted to give me. It was kind of funny, but they started asking me more and more information. It became another project for me. Hopefully next time, when someone offers a thank you, it will be real simple, but it was wonderful. I'm honored.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We're honored to have you. That's my report. If there are no questions, we'll move on to unfinished business.

MR. FISCHOFF:
Could I just update the Board on the generator?

DR. GITTELMAN:
Please.

MR. FISCHOFF:
If you remember, we had this generator project. I have good news and bad news. The bad news I'll tell you first is that after evaluating all the economics of putting what this company considered a small generator, they have declined to pursue it because they can't put anymore here because the grid at the end of the peninsula wouldn't accept an input of anything more than a two meg generator, and that was with $150,000 upgrading the grid in this area. To put in more than that would cost millions of dollars because they would have to upgrade about five miles of lines right to a substation. So they are not willing to put a generator here, which would have given us back-up power in the event of outages and would have generated revenue.

As a result of looking into the project, I had asked them to investigate the feasibility of renovating or restoring the generators that we have on the premises, which are made by a company called Fairchild Morris, which still exists. I don't think that's the name they use anymore. There may have been several changes in the company, but what was Fairchild Morris is still in existence. They sent some mechanics here several months ago to look over the generator and estimated that it would be about $200,000 to restore the generator into working condition. It was in good shape, but there are a lot of parts that deteriorated over time. They would have to take it apart and work over all the parts, but they thought it could be done. That didn't include restoration of a control panel. I

don't know if that's the official word, but there is a whole wall of switches and gauges that in 1920 when it was built was state of the art, but it looks like a Frankenstein movie control board. In any case, they didn't estimate the repair or the renovation of that because they would have to take it apart.

Fairchild Morris believes and is looking for the original records for these generators. They believe they have them in paper, not microfilm. They are looking through their archives to find all the original records, which would be in and of itself great because we might be able to acquire that from them as part of the Museum's archives.

But more importantly, the company that was here, Neo Energy, which is a subsidiary of a very large energy company that operates nationally, is looking to have a presence on Long Island. They understand the importance of doing good things on Long Island to generate favorable good will. They are investigating considering, together with Fairchild Morris that has expressed some interest in renovating these generators for the Museum at their cost. It doesn't mean they're going to do it, but they are seriously considering it right now, and hopefully in a few months I can report that that is something they are going to do. Right now they are looking for the original records, which, as I said, they believe are available.

In the worst-case scenario, even if we're able to acquire the original documents, that would be quite an accomplishment for the Museum. I would like to be more optimistic to think that we're even going to have those so they're in operating state. It's not like we would actually try to use them as back-up power, but at least they would be as if they were new and we would probably be able to turn them on for demonstrations and so forth. So that's the good news part of it. We'll see how it progresses.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I think Gary is experiencing what many of us have experienced. Some of these projects take a long time. You start out on one trail and end up in a dead end and end up going in another direction and something comes of it. I am remiss in not reminding you that Gary was the one that originally pursued the owner of Normandy Manor and provided the most energy. He got it to the point where Lance and I took over to take it to the Legislature. Clearly, Gary was the driving force behind getting the deal together. I applaud Gary and any Trustee who pursues a project of this nature and keeps going even though there's bad news and good news.

MR. MALLAMO:
I think one of the big important features of the Normandy Manor acquisition that made all the difference was having a willing seller. The contact that Gary made to bring him over here for breakfast and share the good will of the Museum went a long way to bringing this to fruition.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We really became a good team. Gary brought it to one step, and then Lance and I took it to the next.

MR. LABUA:
Question for Gary. Are these diesel generators?

MR. FISCHOFF:
Yes, they come – at least the two meg comes self-contained in a 40 foot trailer with the fuel, the generator –

MR. LABUA:
What's there now?

MR. FISHOFF:
Down here now? They are diesel. They run on number two oil. They are 125 kilovolts each.

MR. LABUA:
Are they hooked into the electrical system so that if you wanted to use them as a back-up if there was a power failure, the generators –

MR. FISCHOFF:
They may be. I'm not sure if they are currently hooked up. As I said, they didn't investigate the switch. I don't know how automatic it was in 1921, which is when I think they're dating this. That's probably how it was set up. They didn't get into that yet.

DR. GITTELMAN:
If you have those "House Magazines" which we passed around to you, there is a rather nice article on page 179.

New business? We have not established a need for an executive session. Does anybody have a need for executive session? Motion to adjourn by Marge.

MR. FISCHOFF:
Second.

(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.)

SG/ap