

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on October 2, 2002 in the Vanderbilt Museum Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann - Secretary
Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Treasurer
Carl Luecke - Trustee
Edward J. Hahn - Trustee
William Macchione - Trustee
Donna deLuca Periconi - Trustee
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee
Bertram E. Seides - Trustee
Deborah Gray - Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director
Rita Beckman - Staff
Barbara Oster - Staff
Mark McHugh - Staff
Lorraine Vernola - Staff
Zachary Studenroth - Staff
David Bush - Staff
Stephanie Gress - Staff
Tom Penna - Staff
Mike Kerr - Staff
Florence Ogg - Staff
Leslie Tannen - Todd Shapiro Associates
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Absent:

Gary C. Fiscoff
Michael Broxmeyer
Robert LaBua
Susan LeBow
R. Douglas Shaw

(Dr. Steven Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.)

DR. GITTTELMAN:

Good evening, everybody. This is a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. I want to thank all guests in attendance for joining us. Do we have a list of those guests who are attending?

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is there anybody who wishes to ask a question of the Board or to make a statement?
Thank you for joining us. Approval of the minutes, Marge Fuhrmann.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I make a motion that we approve the minutes for the September Board Meeting as well as the August Board Meeting held for the past two months. The comments on the meeting held in August were submitted during the September meeting. I have comments for the September meeting to be submitted later.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can I have a second?

DR. PECORALE:

I don't think there was a quorum at those meetings. Should we not amend it that they were not meetings because they were not formal meetings if there's no quorum? We can just accept the comments that were made at those two meeting dates. I'm just asking the question because I do understand that on the first date it indicates that a quorum is not present.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I thought that they were still called meetings, though no resolutions could be passed but that committee results were noted and whatnot and therefore they were still called meetings. Perhaps I'm not correct on that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Tony, it's been practiced that when we don't have a quorum we still generate minutes and we still have committee reports but we don't vote on anything.

MR. LUECKE:

I was just going to say in the spirit of keeping everybody advised as to what we're doing, having the minutes and having them approved I think is a good idea.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think it's a good idea, too, although it may fall outside of some rule someplace.

Deborah Gray, hello. Welcome to the Board. We have a new Trustee this evening. I haven't met you before. Welcome to the Board of Trustees. Perhaps you can tell us a little about yourself.

MS. GRAY:

I live in the neighborhood. I work for the Winthrop South Nassau University Health System, which is a non-profit hospital organization in Nassau County. I have lived on Long Island some twenty plus years. I am very interested in what the Vanderbilt Museum is all about and the resources that it provides for us in Suffolk County.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Glad to have you aboard.

MS. GRAY:

Thank you.

MS. FUHRMANN:
There's a motion on the floor.

DR. GITTELMAN:
There is a motion on the floor, no second.

MR. MACCHIONE:
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Any further discussion? In the absence of further discussion, all in favor? Opposed?
Your motion was for the August minutes.

MS. FUHRMANN:
And the September minutes, all at once.

DR. GITTELMAN:
But you did mention that you had corrections to the September minutes to follow.

MS. FURHMANN:
Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Are they corrections you would like to give to the stenographer in writing or would you like to present them here at the meeting?

MS. FURHMANN:
They are very short. I can just give them to her.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Okay.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Page four, paragraph three, the summer intern did not document 1,500 fish on her own. Page four, paragraph four, the Belanski prints that are being framed are copies. They are not the originals that will be hung. On page five, paragraph six it's the National Endowment for the Humanities. That concludes the corrections and comments for the minutes.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Any comments or questions? If not, thank you, Marge. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Mr. Broxmeyer, Mr. LaBua, Ms. LeBow & Mr. Shaw)

Public Relation's Report.

MS. TANNEN:
Good evening. How is everybody? Nice to see you. We have three tapes to show you tonight. Mark turns out to be the star of all three. In fact, we had a very nice article and photo in Newsday, which we were very pleased with. There's also a copy of the Media Report. I don't know if you want to pass this around.

VIDEO PRESENTATION 7:35 - 7:40 P.M.:

9/20/02	News 12	Earth's New Satellite
9/20/02	NY-55	Earth's New Satellite
9/20/02	LI News Tonight	Earth's New Satellite

MS. TANNEN:

Apart from this, we're also continuing to try to publicize to the greatest extent possible Wendy's activities, the Magic Show and the Radio Review. The emphasis for October is going to be on the spectacular Halloween weekend that's coming up toward the end of the month. We're hoping to be successful with that as well.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Education and Exhibits, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Okay, the first thing we're going to ask is that I'm going to place for review a motion to accession some seventeenth century Japanese armor. This armor - you all have an information packet in your folders. The actual materials were here last month, but they're very delicate. It was determined that we really wouldn't be bringing them back down again this month.

The armor consists of one helmet with a face plate, two breast plates, a thigh guard, a shin guard and two spears. There was an article in "Town and Country Magazine" in December of 1937, which shows this all, which is our provenance. It shows that it was part of the original collection. We have known that it has been here all along, but until this article was located and researched, we were not able to determine that it was part of the original collection and, therefore, it has never been accessioned. Therefore, I am making a motion to be accessioned now. I'm looking for a second.

MR. SEIDES:

Second.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you, Bert.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Discussion? Those of you who have never had an introduction into the concept of accessioning, we bring into our collection items that we cherish and which we believe have a connection with the institution strong enough for us to take what is a semi-permanent responsibility for maintenance and care. You can de-accession, but it's a more difficult process. The process of accessioning and de-accessioning items is critical for the health of a museum because you are in essence saying, these are the things that we are making a permanent and real commitment to their protection and preservation. It's not something that is trivial and it does require the Board to do it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's not done lightly.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Therefore, without any additional questions, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It carries unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Mr. Broxmeyer, Mr. LaBua, Ms. LeBow & Mr. Shaw)

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you all. Moving on, the Sudan trophy room has been cleared and conserved. Mike Kerr, our carpenter, has cleaned and re-stained all the paneling in there. The UV filters have been installed.

The Belanski prints have been digitally reproduced. They are being mounted and are ready to be hung. We would like to thank Beth Laxer-Limmer and her husband. Her husband is a graphic artist. We would like to thank him for the donation of his time and materials for this project. The cost of this project has been zero to the Museum. He has donated all time and material to accomplish this task. The prints will be hung with their fish specimens or as near to their fish specimens as possible.

The dino-activity table was built by Mike Kerr this month, and we thank him for that. He is our resident carpenter.

The educational shows opened this week and the activity has been busy.

The telescope has been taken apart, is clean, and is being put back together.

The Planetarium expects to be busy next week with the space shuttle launch.

The \$3,000 grant for conservation needs is being implemented. The consultant has been here twice.

"A&E," the cable channel, has been in contact with us. They would like to do another segment for their "American Castles" TV show on the eagle's nest. They have been in touch with Florence concerning doing another segment on that.

Marble House has been in contact with us for photographs of Mr. Vanderbilt and his first wife Virginia Fair for their photo gallery that they are establishing up there. Of course, we will be receiving credit.

All UV filters are in. Florence is in the process of redoing the ship model room with Mike Kerr. They're going to be doing a special section on the yachts in use during the World Wars. Florence has been working with Bert on photographs for the reaccreditation of the Museum, which is an ongoing project, of course.

Florence has also been working with Tiffany on doing research on the Vanderbilt Cup Race and the cup itself. She hopes to have Tiffany work with her to get the cup brought up here to be displayed for the 100th anniversary of the cup, which would be in, I believe, January of 2003.

MS. OGG:

October of 2004.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Excuse me, October of 2004. I did not write it down; I apologize - For approximately a three-week period as it always had been done when the race was run -- rather sailed - no run. It's a car race. They have been working well with us on that project.

Course registration for the adult education courses in the Town of Huntington is going forward. It was a terrible stormy night when the on-site registration went on, so it was a little slow but it seems to be picking up. We're hoping that all the courses will go forward. That's the report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you all for your accession.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Comments? Questions? If not, thank you for your report. Development Committee, Carl or Michael. Michael is not here.

MR. LUECKE:

Yes, the Development Committee met yesterday. Primarily we would like to bring to the group the discussion we had about our event next year, our fundraising event next year. As we reported at a previous meeting, this year we increased our profit from \$20,000 to \$35,000. Zach, our Development Director, set up a budget for next year. Our goal is to have a profit or net of \$50,000, which is increasing it again \$15,000.

In order to do that two things have to occur. One, we have to sell more tickets. We would accomplish the goal if we could sell 90 more tickets. We would like to have more Board Members try to help us sell tickets. I realize that for some people it's a little difficult, more difficult than for others. One of the proposals that we have is that we have at the Vanderbilt a set time for people to phone corporations or phone members to try to sell tickets right here.

The second item that we have to pursue, the second goal is to increase the corporate support. Zach put together a list of corporations that had donated to the Museum in the past, along with a list of prospective corporations. What we would appreciate the Board doing is looking at both the people who have donated in the past and the prospective corporations and see if there are any personal connections that a Board Member may have so that they could introduce Zach, Lance, or whoever to that corporation.

We'd even suggest a luncheon or a tour if we could get a couple of CEO's or CFO's or whoever heads the funding of the corporation. I have a list, and I'll pass it out. Please add to the list. For example, if there is a corporation that you feel would be a candidate to donate money, add them to the list. With those two trusts between now and the next event, which will probably be in August, we can achieve those goals. That's the Development Committee Report.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Carl.

MR. LUECKE:
Yes.

MS. FUHRMANN:
There's just one other point about the marketing survey we're doing with zip codes to try and target where people --

MR. LUECKE:
I don't think there's anything for the Board to do -

MS. FUHRMANN:
Okay.

MR. LUECKE:
I'll just pass these out.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Any questions or comments? Thank you. Did we get the money from Fleet?

MR. LUECKE:
I believe we did.

MR. MALLAMO:
Yes, we did.

MR. LUECKE:
I think we have almost all the money.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Finance Committee.

DR. PECORALE:
Each Trustee has a copy of the Treasurer's Report up through the actuals through the end of August, our budget from September to the end of the year. If there are any questions on the part of any of the Trustees, we'd be happy to attempt to answer them. Generally, though, we must state that the failure to receive our full endowment funds has placed the Museum with a cash flow problem. That cash flow problem continues. Are there any questions?

DR. GITTELMAN:
Comments?

DR. PECORALE:
Secondly, the Trustees did approve the financial statements for the year 2001. We have provided for each Trustee a full copy of the final report. It should be in your packet. If anyone has any questions relative to the financial statements for the year 2001, we'd be happy to answer those as well.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Questions or comments?

DR. PECORALE:
Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Personnel Committee, Gary Fischhoff is absent. Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:
We haven't had a meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Okay, questions or comments? We'll move on. Membership, Doug Shaw is absent. Ed, Dinosaur Committee.

MR. HAHN:
The issue with NYIT is still pending. I spoke today with the attorney for NYIT, Douglas Catalano, who said that NYIT is ready, willing, and able to meet with us to resolve these issues. I asked him to give me a date in which we can sit down this month. He said any date we want except for the 14th, 15th, or 16th. I'll be contacting Lance, and we'll work out a date that is convenient for us other than those three dates. Hopefully we will be able to finally sit down with the representatives from NYIT and get this issue resolved.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Do you have a sense as to who we would be sitting down with?

MR. HAHN:
The president, I believe, and the accounting people. This has been going on for quite some time. My last conversation with Mr. Catalano, I believe, was about a month and a half ago and he informed me he would be contacting either myself or Lance about a date, which never happened. He never contacted us, so I hope he is being genuine in his representations.

DR. GITTELMAN:
So you will pursue this.

MR. HAHN:
Yes. I will speak with Lance and the other members of the Dinosaur Committee about attendance and a convenient date for us and then work with that.

DR. GITTELMAN:
All right. Any questions or comments? Lance, are there plans for promoting the dinosaur exhibit?

MR. MALLAMO:
Well, we are currently installing a gas main to the exhibit building. You'll notice how the whole property is dug up. We have been installing mains to every building but this week they're working at the dinosaur exhibit, so the whole lot in front is dug up with a huge excavation. Once that is done and the landscaping is restored there, we'll be working with the County Executive's Office to establish a new date for the press conference at the exhibit that will promote it.

I will say our new education programs are doing very well. We're getting a number of bookings and schools that we haven't had here before who are very excited about coming. I think we already - Stephanie, have we already done that program?

MS. GRESS:

The first one is October 8th.

MR. MALLAMO:

So the first one is October 8th. We're just getting into our school programs right now. They book in September, and they start coming in October. There has been a tremendous amount of interest, and we think it's going to be not only a wonderful new resource here but a financial resource as well.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I know this is unusual, but would it be possible for me to attend a program or two?

MR. MALLAMO:

Sure.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If you could let me know the schedule, I would appreciate it very much.

MS. GRESS:

Sure.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I promise not to be too invasive, but I would like to go.

MR. MALLAMO:

I'm trying to work the details out with the group from Disney MGM Studios and Oceaneering. They have communicated with me their interest in coming up to look at the site and the seaplane hangar for the installation of the permanent exhibit. Hopefully we'll come to a meeting of the minds, and they'll be up here before the end of the month.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You say they're going to come up here. They have asked for us to pick up the cost of this trip.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, part of it. That's why I'm waiting to get that final proposal. I should have that, and then I'll go over that with the Committee.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any other questions?

MR. MALLAMO:

They did indicate that they would charge a fee. It was going to be well below their standard fee, and they would be working with us on the fundraising aspect of it and seeing who some of their other clients were and are, Mississippi Botanical Garden or Missouri Botanical Garden and other facilities. It's definitely something I think we should pursue.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any other questions or comments? Normandy Manor Committee, Bert or Bill.

MR. SEIDES:

We are very pleased to have had the existing floor plans drawn. These plans are being reviewed for ADA approval. We have also had members of the New York State Parks here reviewing that site for National Register status, which is a slow lengthy process, which can take from six months to a year to occur.

Also the property has been reviewed for National Historic Landmark status, which is the highest honor a property can receive.

We are also doing other historical review of this property to develop the understanding of the integral relationship between Normandy Manor and this 43 acre educational campus.

I would just like to say that the Board is very proud of the fact that we have Normandy Manor secured and that it was our responsibility to proceed with the acquisition of this property. We look forward to its development as part of this educational campus.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Comments or questions? Thank you. It's going to be exciting to see it all get in line. Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:

As has been indicated, we're wrapping the year up with some major things going on, not the least of which is our reaccreditation self-study, which has to be completed by the end of November. That's going to be my primary focus for the next couple of months to wrap that up.

We're also planning our first ever Halloween weekend, which happens to coincide with William Vanderbilt's birthday. Reading through the historic minutes, which I have been doing recently, the Museum in the early years had a Halloween weekend celebrating his birthday. We have planned two days of events. This will be a fundraising event, and we hope to make some money from it. We also have some wonderful activities planned for families to come to the Museum that weekend.

MS. PERICONI:

Lance, could you elaborate on some of the activities?

MR. MALLAMO:

We're going to be having the Suitcase Jamboree, which is a musical band, which brings a huge trunk of musical instruments from around the world. We have in our own collection many, many instruments, which I have acquired for the Museum from different countries, so kids get to play them.

MS. PERICONI:

That's wonderful.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's traditional American music with a twist. The kids will be playing anything from a ukulele to a washboard, a springboard, or a drum piano, all kinds of different things. We're going to have story telling. We're going to have a special mummy tour for the mummy.

DR. GITTELMAN:

How about some shrunken head action?

MR. MALLAMO:

I think we announced it last time, but maybe we didn't. We did get a grant from Target Corporation of \$5,000 for the mummy program, so we're going to be able to buy some new materials to supplement that program. We're going to be adding them for the Halloween event.

We're also adding some hands-on interpretive materials in the Hall of Fish and the Memorial Wing, which will begin at the Halloween event but then be here every week. When families come, they will not only see the specimens but children will be able to actually handle certain items on a cart with their interpretive guide at that location.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do we know who that is -

MR. MALLAMO:

Zach, do we know who that is yet?

MR. STUDENROTH:

It's someone from the Arena Players. It's one of their actresses.

MS. PERICONI:

Is this an official schedule, Saturday event, Sunday event -

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, they will be the same events both days. It's Saturday the 26th and Sunday the 27th. It will be one price admission, except we do have a play and a magic show scheduled that day, but because of our contractual agreement with the Arena Players, that has to remain a separate admission.

MS. PERICONI:

Is Todd Shapiro or Leslie aware of this weekend?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

MS. PERICONI:

So they are on top of it.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, they are promoting it. We're going to have a costume parade. We will be giving day-long mansion tours, an abbreviated tour, so that we can have people going through the house kind of in larger numbers than we usually do.

MS. PERICONI:

Is there a special ticket price for that?

MR. MALLAMO:

Ten dollars -

MR. STUDENROTH:

It's the regular combo ticket price.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's the regular combo ticket price, but we feel that we will get many, many more people over that weekend and promote William Vanderbilt's birthday.

We're also working on our holiday events. Last year we had the Dixie Carlyle Radio Review for the 1939 World's Fair. Due to the popularity of that, we're going to continue that this year but with an Irvin Berlin theme. That will take place here in the Planetarium. We're going to do that and a Sunday brunch because there is a very high demand for the brunch. Last year we did it on Saturday nights, and I really liked that, but we're going to try the Sunday brunch this year.

I reported what's going on at the dinosaur building. Capital projects, it's amazing how fast things are happening here. In fact, if you call almost every other day they knock out the phone lines from the subterranean construction.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Excuses, excuses.

MR. MALLAMO:

Unfortunately for me, my phone never gets knocked out. It's everybody else's. I would love to have mine knocked out.

The gas service is installed in almost every building. We're now waiting for the planetarium and the dinosaur building to be connected. We will be adding heat for the first time to the maintenance buildings over here, which are now heated by a woodstove. That will have a heating service, and they will be extending the gas main over to Normandy Manor as well.

The plumbing project is underway. They have started with all of the irrigation systems, the golf course lawn, the rear lawn, all the gardens around the mansion. Last but not least the aspect on the exterior will be - and we think we can do this - having individual water lines brought to each flower pot.

MS. PERICONI:

Are you joking, Lance?

MR. MALLAMO:

This will save us the trouble of having fifteen people water the three hundred pots every day on the house and keep them lush. At the very least, we know we can do the second floor, and that's the most critical part. We will no longer have to walk through the major period rooms with buckets of water to keep these pots watered every day. It's just thrilling. Our master gardeners couldn't be happier that we tested the system in the gardens for the first time last week, and it worked beautifully.

MS. PERICONI:
That's wonderful.

MR. MALLAMO:
We have also installed the irrigation system on the back lawn envisioning that we will have a new site use area at that time, so that will be around where the tent will be.

The electric wiring is about 30 percent complete in the mansion, so right now I think the nursery wing is closed while that area is being redone. They have removed some of the historic sconces from different rooms for restoration and rewiring. They will be going back up shortly.

The HVAC project is under full swing. We hope to have heat there by the first of November, back in the mansion and here at the planetarium. We have no heat here right now because all the other systems were taken out, the oil system.

We have also added the window film, the ultraviolet window film. Florence, would you say 75 percent of the mansion is complete?

MS. OGG:
I'd say almost 90 percent is complete.

MR. MALLAMO:
It's really working out wonderfully. We were afraid that the rooms would be too dark, but this is very subtle now. We don't have those huge glaring windows. It's a very soft, elegant feel to them. The installer has done a marvelous job. You can't even tell that the film is there.

We're told next week they will begin installing the awnings to the mansion that we worked very carefully to restore the original colors.

We'll also have our new fencing starting installation next week. It has arrived. It's in the parking lot, and it's absolutely beautiful. The brick sidewalks will begin in about three weeks.

The seaplane hangar is now being fast-tracked by the Department of Public Works, we're happy to report.

The security system there has been installed, as has all the electric mains. The retaining walls on either side of the building have been constructed, where we will be developing an outdoor classroom. The building is currently being cleaned out of the debris that's within so that they can get into it to begin the interior improvements.

The seawall is about 25 percent complete. The granite side of the wall is more complete. I would say that's about 70 percent complete. All of the areas where the granite blew out in the Nor'easter of 1991 have been repaired. They're now re-pointing all the masonry around the granite. They have removed all the vegetation and reinstalled all the drains at the bottom of the wall so that we don't have that problem again.

On the south side, the new material for the seawall has arrived, and the three-foot wall will rise to seven and a half feet and go the length of the property. We have

met with the neighbor at the south end to explain what's happening, and she's very pleased to see the improvement take place and has offered to become a volunteer for the Museum. We're very happy to make that connection, as well.

Our alarm system is now complete and will be activated on Monday. That will be the new card system, where each employee will receive a card - if I have mine here I can show you what they look like - I guess I've lost mine. Here it is. Each employee will be issued a card like this and his access will only be granted to employees for the buildings that they have actual work issues in. Each entrance will be monitored at the gate. We will have a record of each entry, exit, the time spent, as well as whose card accessed it.

We really think this is going to give us a wonderful security tool here at the museum. We're anxious to see this happen. I'm looking forward to not walking around with keys any longer. These will be at almost every door lock on the property. I think there are only three masters. I have one master that opens everything and others. We're starting it on Monday because we envision huge problems, and we don't want them to happen over the weekend. If we find that staff can't get into buildings they need to be, we will have to change the system. It's a system that can be changed at anytime by computer. It's all run out of the main gate.

Ultimately, we're going to add an option to this, where this will also be your staff I.D. card with your picture and your identification materials will be printed on the card and employees will wear them on the property. That's a project that's been under construction for about four years. We're finally glad to see that complete.

The next item that will be happening hopefully by the November meeting is repaving of the main parking lots, which are in deplorable condition, for the asphalt roadways adjacent to this building, the powerhouse, and down to the boathouse.

The last item under this is, as Bert indicated, we are working on the architectural planning for Normandy Manor. You may recall the original resolution to acquire Normandy Manor was to be voted on on September 11, 2001. For reasons we all remember that legislative meeting was cancelled. This year after our last Board Meeting I was thinking of a way that the Museum could commemorate the attack on our country. In looking at historic photographs at Normandy Manor we recognized that there were two Japanese cherry trees planted on the property side by side, which had been removed at some point. When we went over to look at the general area that they were, there were two stumps in the ground where they had been. We decided to replant those trees, both as our faith in the future of the Vanderbilt Museum and Normandy Manor and as a testimony to what happened on September 11.

I was going to plant one tree at first but Florence said why not two for the twin towers. I have to tell you that every time I go over there and look at them, that's what I'm reminded of. I think they are a wonderful legacy. We had a small ceremony with the whole staff there on September 11. We read a poem and each employee threw a shovel of dirt on the two trees. We will put a plaque up commemorating that. I hope you're as pleased when you see them over there as we are because it's the first element to the restoration of Normandy Manor that we see.

The last item I would like to bring up tonight is we had applied in January for an IMLS grant, that's the Institute for Museum and Library Services. That was one of the first things Zach worked on when he got here. It was a six-week project to prepare that grant. We knew it was a long shot.

We were notified this week that we were not successful, but in reviewing our reviews, we came extremely close. We have the reviews of the three reviewers who rated our application. Two of the reviews I think were absolutely fabulous. The third was not, and I don't understand - I'm going to pass these out so that you get an idea of the issues that that reviewer had, which I really don't agree with myself.

Please note on the cover page of his review you will see where the IMLS panel reviewed his review because they had some concerns about what was written as well. In one part they did disclaim a statement made by the reviewer. Unfortunately, they did not change his scores, which in three cases he did not give us the score that the other reviewers had given us, and that cost us this grant. I think that what we have done the current year is we have addressed those items, and we look forward to an aggressive grant application in January. But I would like you to see the nice comments that the other reviewers did make. I think we're in very good shape to go into reaccreditation this year. That's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Have you compared these scores to the scores we had gotten -

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, and they are significantly higher.

DR. PECORALE:

Question.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

Where do we stand with respect to the habitat?

MR. MALLAMO:

The habitat is in a multi-stage of different capital projects. Certain projects have been completed in that area, and certain projects have not. The waterproofing project has been completed. We are now waiting for the plumbing, the wiring, and the HVAC projects to be completed because there will be wall and ceiling penetrations in that area at that time. Those projects are currently underway and should be done within the next six to eight months in that area. At that time, there is funding in the waterproofing project to re-plaster and re-paint the room.

We also have applied for a grant to restore the dioramas. I think Stephanie Gress has addressed that at previous Board Meetings that we have identified a team that can work with us on that. We have had a crew from the Museum of Natural History look at our dioramas who have indicated to us that these are world class dioramas, among the finest in the world. As soon as we get the major infrastructure improvements going on down there, we will be able to address that issue.

DR. PECORALE:

But it's stable now. There are no longer any more leaks?

MR. MALLAMO:

It's not leaking, no. There are no water leaks in the building right now.

DR. PECORALE:

And the electricity?

MR. MALLAMO:

The electricity is now being replaced. I believe currently we do not have electric there because that's the wing that is being replaced right now. There were significant questions. In fact, when the capital project was bid, the electric and the HVAC portions had three alternates because the architect was unsure of the hollow areas behind the walls and the ceiling because of steel and concrete beams that were in the way. Now that the work has begun, they have identified that we're going to be able to go with alternative "a" which was the preferred alternative, so that's what's being implemented right now.

DR. PECORALE:

Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any other questions or comments? If you have been like Carl and I and others, watching this capital program get birthed, if you will, and nurture and grow, and now to be here and watch it all happen, it's quite the thing.

One of the things - I'm pouring through this IMLS grant myself and the first thing I turn to is governance. I notice that that component, we have gotten high scores by all three reviewers, even the reviewer that we had a problem with. The reviewer that we had a problem with, the highest score he gave was a five out of six, correct?

MR. STUDENROTH:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

And he gave governance a five, amongst other things, but he gave governance a five. From that small vantage point of the Board of Trustees, which is something that I'm sure all of us around this table are very concerned about, amongst the other things. I'm just bringing that to your attention.

One of the things that's very different this time than it was the last time and certainly different than the last time before that was the way in which this institution pursues its accreditation. In the 1980's the institution pursued the accreditation by trying to intimidate the American Association of Museums. In the 1970's the institution achieved accreditation on a default basis because it was the first time anybody was accredited. In the 1980's the institution was not accredited by the AAM and then sued the AAM and got them to change their mind because they didn't want to fight us out in court. They sent a team out to review us. I have seen the reviews from that team. Their scores were failing scores. We were miraculously passed. From 1984 until about 1997 when we last got accredited, nobody was willing to try

to get this place reaccredited. That was 13 years or so where nobody was willing to say, "Okay, fine, let's go for it."

Well, last time when we got accredited really because you have to understand the first time was automatic, the second time was under threat of lawsuit, and the third time was real. Last time was real. We were obsessed with accreditation. I will tell you to the distress of many Trustees and to the distress of similar number of staff, I made it the highest priority and pushed it to the sacrifice of just about anything that got in its way.

This time accreditation seems to silently creep and is being done by the staff in what seems to be silky smooth fashion. It's amazing to me. I hear Lance say, "Well, we have to finish the self-study in a month." I don't know, but, Carl, do you remember the last time we did self-study? I would rather have my nails pulled out. I mean, it was horrible what we went through to finish the self-study. This time Lance just matter-of-factly announced, "I will be working for the next month on this." I want you to know it was trauma city last time, Lance, and it's great to have it go silky smooth. I think that's a testament to the staff and to the quality of this institution that we run.

If an IMLS grant fails but improves dramatically, that says something too. I do not look upon IMLS grant as a failure, Zach. I look upon it as improvement. The fact that one reviewer - you don't know whether he's got an institutional memory that he can't let go because this place had in the early 1980's an institutional history that no one in the AAM wanted to allow us to let go. That's why it was thirteen years before we went back for reaccreditation. We were accredited for the first time five years ago, and we only got a five-year accreditation. Now we're going for ten, right?

MR. MALLAMO:
Right.

DR. GITTELMAN:
And we're going as soon as we can, right?

MR. MALLAMO:
Right.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We're ready, more ready than any institution has a right to ask. Let's hope that that self-study goes in. It's a long, dragged out, laborious process. It goes at the speed of a very sleepy snail. What happens is it goes from self-study, they get it, it's like -

MR. MALLAMO:
Six months to a year to review.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Six months to a year to review this.

MR. MALLAMO:
Then they schedule a site visit.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The self-study is like a filing cabinet draw, or at least it was the last time. It's a filing cabinet draw. It's everything and anything you ever wanted to know about this Museum, including before and after pictures of everything and anything that ever existed here, thousands of them. It's quite the thing. If you have manage to pull it off with all the stuff that I manage to jam down your throats, it's amazing that your phone doesn't break down more often. Now I know where you've been hiding.

I'm looking forward to see the self-study go in, and I'm really looking forward to the AAM coming for a visit next year.

MR. MALLAMO:

Just a note about reaccreditation, at the next Board Meeting, we're just reviewing this right now, our ethic's statement and recent changes that the AAM has indicated that they support, so we're reviewing our current document, vis-à-vis the recent change that they made. If we find that we have to adjust ours somewhat, we may bring that up at the Board Meeting for adoption next month, but we're working on that right now.

DR. GITTELMAN:

One of the comments that the AAM reviewer made in the final notes when they gave us a five-year interim accreditation as opposed to a ten-year one that you now see, was they were looking for continuity and leadership. Well, I think they were looking for more than continuity. I think they were looking for leadership to get along and continuity. Well, we have a Board of Trustees that doesn't turn over that frequently. We have filled our only opening just recently. We have a Director whose not only in good standing but he's downright terrific and a staff that's terrific too. We have continuity. That pays off because if you get folks who remember what it was like the last time, they don't make the same mistakes twice. I'm really looking forward to it. I recommend next time or at least some time before it gets too cold that we all take a hike and go look at some of these capital projects. I understand from Fred Pollert they are spending \$24 million, and they want their money's worth. We had better be able to attest to the fact that they're getting it.

MR. MALLAMO:

I can even make available to those of you who don't have time, I did prepare a video for the Legislative Parks Committee on our capital projects. I will be delivering these tomorrow. We had it a couple of weeks ago but that was un-narrated. Now this one is narrated. I have a bad sinus condition so I don't know how well it's narrated, but at least it's narrated. But it does go through every capital project that's occurring right now.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can we make more copies for each Legislator?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Please make them for each Trustee.

MR. MALLAMO:

Okay.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It will be a good thing to have. I know it will be good for me.

MR. MALLAMO:

My wife is home tonight churning these out. She's making one after another.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Is she really? Oh, poor thing.

MR. MALLAMO:

Otherwise David Bush would have to do it, and he doesn't have the hours.

MS. FUHRMANN:

What time is the meeting, and where are you going?

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's one o'clock. Is it Riverhead or Hauppauge?

MR. MALLAMO:

Hauppauge.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's Hauppauge. It's a one o'clock thing. We get there. They take us when they're ready.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I understand about that. Are you looking for an audience or do you just want to do this on your own?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Company is always welcome. The more of you, the merrier. Love to have you. You haven't lived until you have sat there all day.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I have sat there all day.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I know you have. It's important. I'll make that my report. Unfinished business? I welcome our new Trustee. I hope that in thirteen years from now you can say you have enjoyed all thirteen years. How many years for you, Carl, thirteen?

MR. LUECKE:

That's about correct.

MR. MALLAMO:

Steve, could I just say something? I'm sorry, under my report, I was to have Zach do a demonstration of the website. For technical reasons, we were unable to do that tonight. We hope to have that up at the next meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Why would you bring it up, if I managed to get you passed it?

MR. MALLAMO:

Because somebody would bring it up. But please do go on our website. Our new website is absolutely phenomenal. It is so extensive. We're now adding updated status of all the capital projects onto it. People will be able to look at what's happening with the capital projects.

DR. GITTELMAN:

By the way, if you need storytellers for Halloween, I do this for a living.

MR. MALLAMO:

Number two. So we now have two storytellers.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I would be glad to tell stories on Halloween.

MR. MALLAMO:

Okay, you're booked.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Unfinished business? New business? Establish a need for executive session? Can I have a motion to adjourn?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll give you a motion.

MR. LUECKE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I reserve the "Telltale Heart" and "The Monkey's Paw." All in favor? Opposed? We stand adjourned. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Fischhoff, Mr. Broxmeyer, Mr. LaBua, Ms. LeBow & Mr. Shaw.)

(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.)

SG/ap

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