

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on January 9, 2003 in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President
Carl Luecke - 1st Vice President
Michael Broxmeyer - 2nd Vice President
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann - Secretary
Donna deLuca Periconi - Trustee
William Macchione - Trustee
Bertram E. Seides - Trustee
Susan LeBow - Trustee
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee
Deborah Gray - Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director
Rita Beckman - Staff
Anthony Camilli - Staff
Lorraine Vernola - Staff
Mary Ann Zakshevsky - Staff
Bill Dieck - Staff
Lou Marciano - Staff
Leslie Tannen - Todd Shapiro Associates
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Absent:

Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Treasurer
Edward Hahn - Trustee

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

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you for joining us. 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. Is there anybody in the audience, any guest who wishes to address the Board or ask us any questions? Thank you for joining us. We will move on to the approval of the minutes, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Okay, Steve, before we approve the minutes, on behalf of the Board, we want to thank Ann Marie for her excellent job throughout all of last year as our stenographer.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Not too shabby.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Not too shabby at all. This is for the minutes, your professionalism -

DR. GITTELMAN:

Make sure all the Legislators read this.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Yes, do it in capital letters. Your professionalism, your conscientiousness to your task, the perfection in which you do your job, which is near impossible since you're taking verbatim minutes -- and I, for one, mumble -- the timeliness that you get your minutes out is unbelievable. We just wanted you to know that we appreciate everything you do for us each and every month. As we start 2003, we want you to know that we hope you're here every single meeting. We never want you to go away. Thank you, Ann Marie, for being you.

MS. PASTORE:

Thank you.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Now, on to the minutes. I move the minutes be accepted as presented.

MS. LEBOW:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed?

MS. PERICONI:

Abstain.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do you really want to do that? We had a chance at a clean sweep on Ann Marie's minutes, and you had to break it up. The minutes are approved. (9/0/1/2 Abstained: Ms. Periconi. Absent: Dr. Pecorale & Mr. Hahn.)

Public Relation's Report.

MS. TANNEN:

I would like to wish everybody a happy, healthy new year. I'm glad to see you all again in 2003.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Same here.

MS. TANNEN:
We have some videos to show tonight. The first one is starring Anthony, who did an outstanding job at News 12 discussing the meteor showers.

VIDEO PRESENTATION: 8:04 - 8:12 p.m.

11/18/02	News 12	Meteor Shower
11/18/02	LI News	Meteor Shower
1/6/03	News 12	Pinocchio

MS TANNEN:
Thank you. As far as the rest of the report is concerned, there was a lot of emphasis given to the holiday activities that occurred starting around Halloween time and going right through the Christmas holiday, including the children's theater, the holiday reception, the holiday house tours, the candlelight tours, and the planetarium shows.

In particular, I'd like to draw your attention to some very nice publicity that came out in Newsday regarding one of our outstanding volunteers, Bill Caputi, who very generously volunteers his time to play the Aeolian organ. I think it's a labor of love on his part. That came out very nice.

In the future we're looking forward to publicizing the holiday events that are going to be occurring for the winter break in February and again in April. Does anybody have any questions?

DR. GITTELMAN:
Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:
I think Anthony did a wonderful job stepping in on such short notice. Anthony Camilli is a console operator here at the Planetarium. He was responsible for disassembling the observatory, repairing it, restoring it, rebuilding it, cleaning it, painting it, everything. He did a great job with Lorraine Vernola on that project in getting that job done. Thank you for stepping in.

MR. CAMILLI:
Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:
If that's it, thank you very much for that report, and thank you, Anthony, for stepping in.

MR. CAMILLI:
Thank you again.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Election of officers, Bert.

MR. SEIDES:

The Nominating Committee would like to bring forward the new slate of officers for 2003 and forward. We would like Marjorie Fuhrmann, Secretary to the Board; Anthony Pecorale, Treasurer to the Board; Michael Broxmeyer, 2nd Vice President; Carl Luecke, 1st Vice President; and Steve Gittelman, President of the Board.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are there any nominations that anybody wishes to put in place for any office?

MS. LEBOW:

I move the nominations be closed.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MS. GRAY:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any discussion? No discussion. All in favor? Opposed? Can I have the Secretary cast one vote, please.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I will cast one vote for the election of the officers for 2003 and for the term.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you very much to the Nominating Committee for serving. I appreciate your time and effort. I look forward to serving with the other members of the Executive Board. (Vote: 10/0/0/2 Absent: Dr. Anthony Pecorale & Mr. Hahn.)

Educations and Exhibits, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you, Steve. Betsy is continuing the catalog of her fish. When she is done with the cataloging, and she assures me the end is in sight, they are going to begin with the reorganization of the entire fish exhibit.

Stephanie has been working with the electrician. There has been no interruption or disturbance to the exhibits themselves during all the electrical work or disruptions to the heat in the building. The contractors have been very careful with our exhibits and with the artifacts and the furnishings. It should be noted in our minutes that they have been so considerate. They have notified the curators about moving things when they are working with things and when they feel artifacts might be disturbed. They have shielded things so they would not be jarred. I think that's worthy of note that we have hired people like that to work with us. I think that's a good thing.

On the 14th of January, Dr. DeSantas from Stony Brook is coming to talk to our staff about a joint research project. We should have some more information on that joint research project at our next meeting.

Next week Mr. Vanderbilt's ring finger on his left hand will be reattached to the diving example of Mr. Vanderbilt after the photo documentation is completed. Mr. Vanderbilt's left hand, the fingers were destroyed at some point. They have since

been recreated in latex, and they are in the process of reattaching all the fingers. The ring finger was the last one to be reattached, and that is ready to go on.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We wish to make it clear that this is not on the real Mr. Vanderbilt.

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, it's on the diving Mr. Vanderbilt example.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Just for the record, for anybody who is reading this.

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, I said out of latex, yes.

MR. MALLAMO:

But it is a mannequin.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Yes, it's a mannequin. I guess that should have been clearer. I apologize. It was not made totally clear.

The year-end numbers are being passed around. Everyone should note that they are up quite a bit from the previous year. It's been noted that we did benefit in terms of our school visits from increased school trips from the previous year.

Our February vacation flyer has been approved, and it will be mailed out shortly for the school vocation program.

The mansion holiday decorations were up and are in the process of being taken down.

As I mentioned previously, there has been a lot of work being done in the house with the heating system and the electricians and whatnot. We just also want to note that the tour guides during all of this have done a magnificent job of just going forward. They have had to step over and work around and they have done their job with aplomb. They have just kept right on going regardless of what was going on around them.

Next year during the holidays we'll be celebrating 1942. Florence would like everyone to know that she is seeking donations for the house for the year 1942. If anyone has anything, she has some donations of "Life" magazines, but she's looking for anything else anyone might have that documents 1942.

The boxed archive project is completed. She now has 18 pages available for researchers. The final report for NEH for her grant is being prepared. She and Michael Kerr are in the process of redoing the ship model room. The Tarantula Two artifacts will now be included in what was the ship model room. We are including an exhibit of ship models of war donations made by the Vanderbilt family.

In preparation for accessioning Belanski fish prints, the staff is in the process of cataloging and counting how many prints there are. We have already verified that

these prints were on site during Mr. Vanderbilt's time. So once we have a complete count, we will be asking the Board to accession all of these prints. This will probably take place in March.

We are very proud to announce that the Vanderbilt has received a \$5,000 grant from Cornell to prepare a new program, a new show. The show is on the heritage of Long Island Sound, particularly on the biology of lobsters and quality of water and habitats in the Sound. They will be meeting with Cornell for a timetable for this program, and it will be available as a fall educational program in conjunction with the marine program. It will also be available as a new winter program.

They will be recording a new spring program this week with slide shows.

The brochures for the adult education program will be going out on Friday. Registration is on the 31st of January for adults. The brochure for the children's educational program will be going out on Friday, but registration is a different day.

On February 14th we will be having a special program here at the Vanderbilt. There will be a radio revue with dinner. We will have a program in the Planetarium. It will be the "The Winter Sky" show. In addition to "The Winter Sky" show we will be putting personal messages up on the dome. They will be projected and then a keepsake will be made of the projected messages for the persons who put up the messages to take back with them, which will be kind of cute. We also want to note for everyone that the Sunday show times used to be 11 a.m. These times have now been changed to 12 noon.

I believe that is going to be my report, unless anybody has any questions.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If there are no questions, thank you, Marge, for that report. Development Committee, Carl or Michael.

MR. BROXMEYER:

The Development Committee has not met since our last board meeting. Much of our future meetings will be spent preparing for "Cocktails with Berlin" on August 1st. This year we're going to try to establish a few sub-committees to help us improve on the event to try to increase revenues and also to help supplement not having Zach around at this point.

Along those lines, we going to need some additional board members to volunteer and give some time toward the event. Please see me if you can volunteer your time to help out. Anything you can do, any time you can contribute toward the event would be great.

That's really my report for development.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Carl, anything to add?

MR. LUECKE:

Since we have half as many meetings, there are only three before August 1st. It will be here like that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, any other comments?

MR. BROXMEYER:

Well, there's more toward the event than that. There is the time of making phone calls and coordinating. We're going to try to do a raffle for a silent auction, which Marjorie has agreed to chair that committee. Any time toward the event will be very helpful. Time is what we need.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Finance Committee, Lance.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Steve?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Okay, everyone in their packet should have received the Treasurer's Report, which gives the actuals through November. You will notice that admissions are proceeding on a record pace, which is very good. Salaries are on budget. Expenses are in line with what we have projected for the year. We are doing very well on site use. Everyone should note that the external audit starts at the end of the month. If there are no questions, that's the end of the Finance Committee Report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are there any questions? Thank you for that report. Personnel Committee, Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:

We have not had committee meetings for Personnel or the Membership Committee, Steve, because right now we have no chairman for either of those committees. We are overdue for a committee meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:

And we're due for a Chairman. I know I have explained this before. We received a letter from Mr. Sabatino, who is Counsel to the Legislature. I guess I have been on the board 14 years. Carl, you have been on the board 14 years. Suddenly Mr. Sabatino enforced the attendance statute on three members of the board. Doug Shaw was due for renewal January 1st. Rather, this term expired December 31st, and apparently Doug had missed greater than 25 percent of the meetings. On that basis, by law, he is no longer allowed to be reappointed.

Gary Fischhoff and Bob LaBua had both missed four meetings in a row. Now despite the fact that we argued this point, and that there were extenuating circumstances in the case of both gentlemen and also that we have twice as many - we used to have 12 meetings a year. Now if you noticed, we have reduced our meeting schedule to six meetings a year. That's because to an extent, we're looking at this requirement and saying, apparently, the Legislature has decided to enforce this.

All three gentlemen were good trustees. We owe them our gratitude for their service. It's awkward. I think it was unusual for me - or I found it somewhat unusual that in the middle of a budget process, that Mr. Sabatino had time for his

staff to collate all of our attendance and then to enforce a regulation that had never been enforced in the 14 years of my experience on this board. That's the way it goes.

MS. PERICONI:

I'd like to make a statement.

DR. GITTELMAN:

By all means.

MS. PERICONI:

I would be remiss if I didn't say a few words about Gary Fischhoff's departure. I'm aware Gary resigned at the end. It was of his own volition, but it has come to our attention, as you indicated now, that had he not done so he may have been asked to leave by Suffolk County. Some of us were unaware or had forgotten attendance regulations of the museum for the trustees.

Gary and I joined the board at the same time in 1995. Over these past seven years, some of which were very difficult and very trying, we forgot about attendance regulations. As I recall, Gary was here with many of us many months when trustee meetings went to 1 a.m. and later. We had to listen to out of control emotions. We had to see unbelievable antics, and we had to try to discern the truth and to provide stability to a Museum that was at the time scandal ridden.

For these seven years, I have seen first hand Gary Fischhoff's brilliant mind. I have seen his courage. I have seen his steadfastness, and I have seen his character. He has contributed so much to the Vanderbilt Museum, tireless effort, personal monies, and an outstanding legal mind. It was his expertise that brought Normandy Manor back as part of Eagle's Nest. How strange that a few months ago, Gary was recognized by the County Executive and so many others for his outstanding effort, but because he missed consecutive meetings, he is or was to be dismissed. Seven years of diligence, of remarkable accomplishments, of wisdom, of guidance, and he is no longer here.

On many boards trustees are simply attendees at meetings. They contribute little that is real. On many boards trustees only belong to add another line to their credentials. Gary Fischhoff was not one of these trustees. The progress that we have seen here at the Vanderbilt Museum over these many years is because of Gary Fischhoff's participation on this board.

There are some personal crises beside ill health and death that may prevent us from making meetings, but may I remind Suffolk County, we are volunteers. We are not paid employees. Most of us are sincere in our volition to serve this institution and to preserve it for generations to come. I had to say tonight how much I appreciated Gary Fischhoff -- I know we all did - how much I miss him, and how sadly I feel for this museum in Suffolk County that he is no longer serving here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That was very well spoken. Does anyone else have anything to say?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I think Donna said it perfectly.

DR. GITTELMAN:

One of the strange parts of serving on this board is that we serve as appointees of the County. One of the unusual parts of the make-up of this institution is that we have no input as to who become trustees. We neither recommend that they stay. Actually we can harm the future of a trustee by saying they should stay, is what it comes down to. The Legislature within its right controls when they remove somebody and when they don't, but this was not the Legislature. This was Counsel to the Legislature. There was no vote of the Legislature to support this. We can find no record of any request by any Legislator that this action be taken. This appears to have been a unilateral action. That's it. I think we have lost some very good people because of it. I don't feel that trustees should be judged based upon attendance only. However, unfortunately, that's the code and Mr. Sabatino enforced it.

I will need a new Chairman of the Personnel Committee. I will need a new Chairman of the Membership Committee - or Chairperson, excuse me, please. I seek volunteers.

MS. GRAY:

Are there committee charters, since I'm a new member, of what exactly the committee's responsibility is?

DR. GITTELMAN:

There are not - I don't think there are committee charters, but certainly I can tell you. I would greatly appreciate talking to you. As I look for some leadership -

MS. FUHRMANN:

I wrote the committee -

DR. GITTELMAN:

Did you?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

My apology.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Years ago.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We will provide you with descriptions that I apparently have forgotten.

MS. GRAY:

Another question, are these standing committees of the board or are they established -

DR. GITTELMAN:

Personnel is standing; Membership is not standing.

MS. GRAY:

So as a result of the decision we made to reduce the number of meetings, I just raise this as a question, should we reconsider the number of committees we have and whether or not there is some possibility of combining them to make the board more functional?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think that's a very good point.

MS. GRAY:

I don't know what they do, so it would be hard to make a recommendation, but I'm just suggesting with fewer board meetings, you might want to consolidate committees and let them function on more than one topic to assist the smaller number of people.

MR. BROXMEYER:

At certain times we have discussed Membership and Development combining.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think that combining Membership and Development is a logical step.

MS. FUHRMANN:

That really is a logical step.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The reason, quite honestly, why I have been comfortable with Membership being separate was because Doug Shaw was very experienced in that arena.

MS. FUHRMANN:

And he was very good at it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

And he was very good, so, gee whiz, it was working, why not leave it the way it was. Do you know what I'm saying? But I do feel Membership should be part of Development, and, Michael, if you would do that, that would be great.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Maybe we can then add a member to our committee and make that their responsibility.

MS. GRAY:

I was going to ask, are the committees - do they have Chairmen and Vice Chairmen?

MR. BROXMEYER:

On the Development Committee, Carl and I are Co-Chairmen.

MS. FUHRMANN:

But that's unique.

MS. GRAY:

And have Chairmen and Vice Chairmen on -

MS. FUHRMANN:

But you're unique. You're the only committee that has that situation.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Well, there may be another one. I'm not sure yet. There are a couple of concepts I want to bring up tonight for your consideration.

MR. BROXMEYER:

So as far as Membership goes, if you want to just blend it all together, that's fine.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The Personnel Committee is, I think, a very important committee. I don't want to see that absorbed into another committee. I would like to have a Chairperson for that Committee. In my view, the Personnel Committee -

MS. FUHRMANN:

Personnel and Finance can go together.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I don't want to do that. I think they are separate functions. I think that the Finance Committee should be - first of all, both are standing committees, to my recollection. I think that Personnel, really, it's not a question of having meetings. The Personnel Committee, I think, is where the Director has somebody to discuss issues with. The Director makes all the decisions about personnel. One might ask, what does the Personnel Committee do? I kind of look at it as a place of discussion for the Director, but not a place to direct the Director. I am looking for somebody who would be interested. I want to have separate committees. I know, Marge, you're discussing multiple chairmen chairing. I would like to get someone else involved as an additional chairperson, unless you want to switch from Education and Exhibits.

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, it was just because I know most of the personnel to start.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I know, but I want to get more people involved.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I understand that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I am looking for a Chairperson to move into that position. In the Personnel Committee, you're not doing the hiring and firing. You would, if we were ever forced to replace the Director, which we are not going to be replacing the Director, that would be a stand-up role.

MS. GRAY:

I'll talk to you about it after. I would be interested in doing that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If you would, that would be great.

MS. GRAY:

Because I don't have to fire or hire anyone, which is what I do all day, I would appreciate just consulting on those matters.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Have I described the role correctly in everybody's perceptions?

MR. BROXMEYER:

Sure.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Because we do not tell Lance who to hire and fire.

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, we're just a sounding board.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's a sounding board. In that sense, it's a nice committee. It's a good committee. I would like you to consider that.

Somehow we're into the committee discussion. Anyone who wants to - all committees are open to everybody. However, we have to identify ourselves with committees otherwise we don't intend to get anything done. What I would ask of all committee chairpersons is, number one, let me know if you are willing to continue in your roles.

Number two, I would like a membership list for each committee. In other words, if there are no additional members, that's fine. But if we're going to go to six meetings, than half the business of the Board of Trustees has to be done in committees, and we have to do it in the space between meetings. If I don't get the feeling, and I don't want this to come out wrong, if the committee system does not pick up the slack in between meetings, then we're going to have to have more meetings. I think that's a fair way of approaching it. So I'd like active committees. Chairpersons, let me know who is on the committees and let me know who is functioning. If necessary, we'll shuffle some people around, but everybody should pick a committee and everybody should be happy in the committee they're in.

That would take us to the Dinosaur Committee. Ed is absent.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Excuse me, Steve.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Can I make a suggestion, since Dorothy is so new, maybe we should just tell Dorothy who is on the Personnel Committee to give her a start.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Deborah.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Deborah. I'm sorry.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We don't have to do that now.

MR. MALLAMO:

Ed Hahn has strep throat and was unable to come tonight. We have been trying to focus on resolving the outstanding issues with New York Tech, and I think we are pretty well on the way to doing that. We're just waiting to get our heat installed in the building out back. It's on the list of things to do since buildings are connected. That will be coming shortly.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do you want to go on to your report?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I'm happy to report that we did send in our reaccreditation self-study. I made it to Fed Ex with eight minutes to spare.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That was so funny.

MR. MALLAMO:

If one more person came to Steve's door that afternoon - I was starting to panic. The document ended up 58 pounds. We shipped it off. It was in a huge box. It was a wonderful exercise.

I do admit it was more than I thought it was going to be, Steve, but I think the real work was not in preparing the self-study but preparing for the self-study. In doing that I reviewed every study and document that we have prepared over the last ten years. We have had many studies prepared, just to see how we were doing and where we were going. I have to say, when I started reading about things that were prepared ten, eight, five, even three years ago on what we should do, I came to the realization that we have already finished this.

Actually over 95 percent of what we set out in 1998 for our five-year plan has already been accomplished. Some of the things we didn't plan on, but the one that comes to mind is the interpretive furnishings plan that we had planned, how it was recommended that we supplement the furnishings in the house. We have already done that in our interpretive strategy. So we really have come a long way, whether we know it or not.

I have heard back from the AAM. They have received the study. They are now reviewing it, and they will shortly be naming a team that will be submitted for our review and approval. Then they will announce when this will happen. That will be within the next four to six months. We should know within the next four weeks who the team will be. We will be able to review that by the next meeting, I think.

It was a very busy fall trying to wrap that up. It just happened to coincide with a tremendous number of capital projects occurring at the same time. As Marjorie indicated in her report when we started planning these projects a few years ago, it was with the expectation that we were going to be closing wings, closing galleries, and closing parts of the mansion tour for this work to occur. As the work got nearer and nearer, we thought we could do it without closing anything. I think we have

done that. My hats off to the entire staff who have bent over backwards to be accommodating. It's really a miracle when you think of the tremendous construction that is occurring around these very fragile items. As she said, our contractors have gone overboard to make sure that the drilling has no vibration. They bought special equipment. It's really amazing when you see what's occurring here.

I was down today at the seawall, which is about 65 to 70 percent complete. It's really just breathtaking. You're going to be blown away when you see it. I really have to thank all the people here on staff, and the support of the trustees in getting these very important projects finished up.

We also have on the agenda for the coming year new areas that we're going to be looking at, particularly in the area to generate new revenue. We have developed a whole additional special events program. We're also going to be increasing our site use activities. We are moving ahead with the plan to develop a semi-permanent site use area in the rear of the museum. We feel that these areas can add significantly to our revenue. The other areas, I think, we have maxxed out. Our site use has gone up, and if this new area is as successful as we believe it will be, I think that will be a big feather in our cap.

We wanted to talk tonight about the policy for the awards of the Belanski fish. Steve, did you want to talk about that?

DR. GITTELMAN:

In discussion with various trustees, first of all, I want to explain that Mr. Belanski did these wonderful watercolors of fish as they were taken out, and he painted them in their life colors. They didn't use color photography. They used his watercolors, and they're wonderful little prints. Over the years it became a tradition that a Trustee, when they were leaving they received a copy of the prints. We don't take the originals, even though we have in some cases a couple hundred copies of the originals that were actually printed by Mr. Vanderbilt. We take a reproduction, and it sounds like a very silly thing, but it's the only thing you're going to get to take out of here other than your experience.

Some Trustees look at them very personally. We do get requests from trustees who have left, "Where is my fish?" It matters to some people, and I would be honest to say to you that I'm not anxious to get mine, but it will matter to me. After 14 years - you can only get it when you leave. Unless you're planning for a quick fish, you know, this doesn't apply to you.

Sometimes we have trustees who come and go. Literally, they get appointed and never show up. We don't think they deserve a fish. Sometimes we get trustees who come for a few meetings, decide it's not for them, and they go. We don't think they deserve a fish. We are now being confronted with the request of past trustees who have not received their fish. We want to respond to them. We are looking to you for a standard.

With that introduction, Marge has a resolution she is going to propose and then we'll open it up to discussion.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move the following: A framed fish print shall be awarded to a trustee who has served a term defined as four consecutive years and is no longer on the board. The

print will include the trustee name and any other information such as positions held, committees chaired.

MS. LEBOW:
May I add something to that?

MS. FUHRMANN:
It has to be seconded first.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Is there a second?

MR. LUECKE:
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Susan.

MS. LEBOW:
I think you should say at least four consecutive years.

MS. FUHRMANN:
At minimum four consecutive years.

MS. LEBOW:
Any wording of that kind, so that it includes people who have served longer than that.

MS. FUHRMANN:
At minimum four years, you're right. I apologize.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Marge's concept reflects my concept, which is simply this: you serve four years, you get a fish.

MR. LUECKE:
Great idea.

DR. GITTELMAN:
If anybody has anything else you want to add to that, like you have to be a good trustee, I don't want to get into that. I know it was mentioned, but I'd rather leave it this way. You serve four years, you get your fish, you're done. It doesn't have to be a complete term; it can be the middle of one term to the middle of the next term, but it has to be four years.

MS. FUHRMANN:
But it has to be four consecutive years because that constitutes a term as defined by the Legislature.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Based upon that very strict measure, we would then come back to you next meeting with a list of fish and invite the appropriate trustees to join us, and we'll give them their fish. They have earned it, and we don't want to hold them up. Is there any further discussion? All in favor?

MS. LEBOW:
As amended, right?

DR. GITTELMAN:
Yes. Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. (Vote: 10/0/0/2 Absent: Dr. Pecorale & Mr. Hahn) By no means is a fish enough for some of the effort that people put in. It's a token.

MS. FUHRMANN:
But it's our token.

DR. GITTELMAN:
My partner has fish for getting a ball closest to the pin.

MS. FUHRMANN:
But that was a different regime.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Yes, it was different. I told him, I'm leaving the business if he hangs it up.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Now we have a standard so that can't happen again. That's one of the reasons why we did it.

MR. MALLAMO:
That's the reason we did this, to clarify this. Steve, I just forgot to announce one thing. We did talk earlier about the endowment guarantee going through for this year, which was enacted by the Legislature in December. At the same meeting, the Legislature approved \$65,000 in ADA funding, which will be used to install a handicapped bathroom in our education center. That was a very welcomed addition.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Are we done with your report?

MS. MALLAMO:
That's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I think this year's effort to get the \$1.2 million was the toughest year yet.

MS. FUHRMANN:
You say that every year.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Yes, and it gets tougher every year. We say it every year, and it gets worse every year. It gets worse, especially this year because the endowment continues to drop. The closer the endowment gets to some magical point, the harder it appears for the Legislature to release the funds. It was very unpleasant. It was unpleasant last

year, but it was more unpleasant this year. I think that we were put through more meetings about meetings and more surprises than I think ever before. The players became clear. At times it got rough. We got what we wanted, but we paid a price. It was difficult.

Something has to be done so that the Trustees do not have to go to battle every year because sooner or later we're going to lose. If we lose, this institution is going to take a real hit. We're not looking forward to it next year, and certainly this year was difficult.

I want to thank you for trusting me with the responsibility with being President. This will be my tenth term. I consider that sort of a landmark.

I am glad that Lance made the point that we have successfully completed our plans. I think that one of the things that we have successfully done in the past nine years that I have been President, and this is no disrespect to Carl because Carl was a very good President, but we did lay out plans for capital projects. We have laid out plans for performance.

I'm about to tell you what my plan is for the coming year. Obviously, the capital projects remain our primary focus. It's an enormous opportunity for the institution.

The reaccreditation, of course, will be a major focus, but now that the self-study is in, and I must tell you, it was well done. It took an enormous effort, and this was the third attempt at reaccreditation that this institution has really had. I took part in the prior ones with Carl and I think a few others did also. This was the smoothest of the two. The last one was brutal. This was not brutal on the trustees. Lance and staff did it, and they deserve a lot of credit. If we were planning to have a good team when it came time for reaccreditation, we had one, and we were very fortunate.

One of the things about reaccreditation is that it brings to light - you tend to review the things that you plan to do. One of the things that it brought to my attention is that it's time to do a five-year plan. Even though our five-year plan is still in effect, we would not be remiss in revisiting it again. Part of the five-year plan that I see is I want to take the capital projects, I want to take Normandy Manor, I want to take new programming, the dinosaur exhibit, and I want to bring them all into focus. I think that our old plan doesn't do that. There is one thing about speaking about what you would like to do if you ever get the stuff, and there's another thing about speaking to the issue of, okay, now we've got the stuff, is it still what we would like to do, and how do we refine that? I think we have to visit that process. I think it's critical, and I think we have accomplished it during this calendar year.

Inherent in that is that we visit our programming, that we look at how we evaluate our programs, that we come up with a method for making sure that our programs are constantly being evaluated, and that they meet up with the standards of the industry, if not exceed.

I certainly would ask that the Education Committee come back to me with a quick overview after discussing it with staff as to how they want to evaluate themselves. Of course, I'd ask Lance to lead that.

In a nutshell, I want us to do a round of planning. I intend that we complete those plans. Since we have been successful in completing past plans, you should approach these plans with the seriousness that these will shape the future of the museum. That would be my report. Is there any unfinished business? Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I noticed that some trustees have provided e-mail addresses and some of them have not. All trustees have provided fax addresses. Speaking on a personal level, it would be easier to communicate through e-mail at this point. If we could get more e-mail addresses it would just work a lot easier, especially with this event coming up with the gala and with the reduced meetings. I could do broadcast e-mails on the raffles at minimum, if I had a more complete e-mail listing.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It would also be great if Lance was getting e-mail. Not to be critical, but this is your one weakness.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I have an e-mail address for Lance.

DR. GITTELMAN:

He doesn't look at it.

MR. MALLAMO:

No, I do look at it. I can explain to you my e-mail problem. Here at the museum we don't have Optimum Online. We can't get Optimum Online.

MS. FUHRMANN:

How about wireless?

MR. MALLAMO:

Right now we have a dial-up service. It takes forever to get anything. The County in the wiring project is rewiring for data lines. They are telling me it's coming, it's coming.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Excuses, excuses.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Lance, e-mail with dial-up connection isn't that slow. It's the internet that's slow. The e-mail shouldn't be that slow.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Whatever it is, I don't want to get into a long-term technical discussion. I agree with Marjorie. Every trustee who can -

MS. FUHRMANN:

You can put out one e-mail and everybody can be done at once.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Well, not everybody goes to e-mail. Quite frankly, if you don't look at it for three days, you get 150 messages.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I get 900 a day. You can get through them.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You have to have the time. Is there any other new business?

MR. LUECKE:

Not new business, but we received a schedule of meeting dates, and there was a date of March 5th. I rescheduled a trip to Florida for the week after. Now it's the week after the 5th. If you can make it any other week, I would appreciate it. If not, no problem.

MR. MALLAMO:

The 5th was to accommodate Ed Hahn, who specifically couldn't make it. I think Marjorie couldn't make it either, and I understand it's Ann Marie's birthday that day, so happy birthday.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What a way to celebrate, with us.

MR. LUECKE:

Any other week, but the week after is good.

MS. LEBOW:

So you're changing it again?

MR. MALLAMO:

We're discussing it. I think right now it is the 5th. You weren't advised it was changed, Ann Marie, were you?

MS. PASTORE:

Rita just told me today that it might be the 12th of March.

MS. LEBOW:

Well, we have the 12th written in red on the material we have in front of us.

MR. MALLAMO:

That's a proposal here. Right now it is scheduled for March 5th. Ed had said he is going to be out of town until the 7th. He said if we could do it any other time, but Carl apparently rescheduled his plans already.

MR. LUECKE:

Any day but the week of the tenth I'm fine. But if you have to do it that week, do it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Tony Pecorale originally said he -

MR. MALLAMO:

That would help Ed. He's going to be away for ten days.

MS. FUHRMANN:

And Tony Pecorale said he could never do a Tuesday.

MS. LEBOW:

Do you want to make it the following week, the week of the 17th?

MS. PERICONI:

That's Saint Patrick's Day.

MS. LEBOW:

I don't mean Saint Patrick's Day.

MS. PERICONI:

No, I'm teasing.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Does the 19th work for everyone?

MR. LUECKE:

That's fine.

MS. FUHRMANN:

That's good.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Sold.

MR. LUECKE:

Thank you very much.

DR. ROGERS:

So it's been changed to the 19th.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

MS. LEBOW:

Do you know what the trouble is, it's so far in the future, how do you - can we adjust if we really have to?

DR. GITTELMAN:

We can adjust, but for the time being, let's at least come up with a schedule. We can always petition to move a date. While we're on a role, guys, May 8th, July 9th, September 4th, November 11th, does anyone have any problems with those days? We can do this again at the next meeting. We can do it at every meeting. But for the time being, that's your schedule. New business? Is there any other new business? There is no reason for an executive session, unless we want to yell at Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Why?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Because you're talking when I'm talking. Is there a motion to adjourn?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Motion.

MS. GRAY:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? We stand adjourned. (Vote: 10/0/0/2 Absent: Dr. Pecorale & Mr. Hahn)

(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.)

SG/ap

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25