

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees, which was scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m., was held on July 9, 2003 in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President  
Michael Broxmeyer - 2nd Vice President  
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann - Secretary  
Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Treasurer  
Deborah Gray - Trustee  
Donna deLuca Periconi - Trustee  
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee  
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director  
Bill Dieck - Staff  
Russ Skadl - Staff  
Leslie Tannen - Todd Shapiro Associates  
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Excused absence:

Carl Luecke - 1st Vice President

Absent:

Bertram E. Seides - Trustee  
William Macchione - Trustee  
Edward J. Hahn - Trustee  
Susan LeBow - Trustee

(Dr. Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

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

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Good, thank you. Thank you for attending. Does anybody wish to address the board in any way, shape or form or to ask questions? Thank you for being here. Marge, approval of the minutes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move that we approve the minutes with one small addition. Is there a second?

MR. BROXMEYER:

Second.

MS. FUHRMANN:

On page 11, the last sentence of the first paragraph, "Hopefully it will be," the missing word is "'resolved' shortly."

DR. GITTELMAN:

Assuming those changes, are you all prepared to vote to approve the minutes? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It carries unanimously. (Vote: 6/0/0/9 Not Present: Dr. Pecorale. Absent: Mr. Luecke, Mr. Seides, Mr. Macchione, Mr. Hahn & Ms. LeBow. Three vacant positions.)

Public Relations' Report, Todd Shapiro Associates.

MS. TANNEN:

Good evening, everybody. Nice to see you. We had a very good month, thanks to Newsday and Peter Goodman in particular. If you turn a few pages in, you will see in the Fanfare Section on June 29, he wrote a nice little piece about "A Midsummer Night's Dream" production.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I don't have one.

MS. TANNEN:

I'm sorry.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's on the desk.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you, I have it.

MS. TANNEN:

Also, Cynthia Blair, again from Newsday, has a nice piece about the first Vanderbilt Cup. Again, Peter Goodman to the rescue. There's a very nice piece on South St. George's 1942 radio production. That makes up for the fact that I don't have any tapes to show you tonight.

DR. GITTELMAN:

No film clips?

MS. TANNEN:  
Not tonight.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Any questions? Thank you for that report. I have something for you before you leave.

MS. FUHRMANN:  
Just one more thing.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Yes.

MS. FUHRMANN:  
Just a reminder to Leslie that I need a new contact for the Garden City Hotel.

MS. TANNEN:  
Sure.

MS. FUHRMANN:  
Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Leslie, did I give you those articles?

MS. TANNEN:  
No.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Here, take these. Show them to Todd and tell him to call me Monday or Tuesday.  
Thank you.  
Education and Exhibits Committee, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:  
Thank you. We are very pleased to report that the invertebrate room has been completely rewired and painted. The specimens have been replaced in taxonomical order. There are new lights, and we highly recommend that all the trustees should definitely visit this room. It is a must-see. The hum of those old electric lights is now gone, and the room has been restored to look as it did when William Vanderbilt had placed the room in order himself, except for one thing. The curators have now put it in taxonomical order, which means from simple to most complex, and that is an improvement in terms of our educational studies. Now, when the guests go through, they will see things as they should be studied. All the shrimps are together. It enhances the educational impact of the room.

Our summer camp is full. It started on Monday. The school brochure for September is at the printer. The mock-up should be back in a week or so for our review. The summer day camps in the area are visiting us daily.

On July 16th, Donna, the Vanderbilt will be visiting the Bay Shore/Brightwaters Library in an outreach program for their summer reading program that the Bay Shore/Brightwaters Library holds. This is the same program they visited last year.

MS. PERICONI:  
What is the subject matter?

MS. FUHRMANN:  
I don't know. It's part of their summer reading program. They have invited us to come down and do two programs that one day on the 16th. So whatever the theme is of your local library this summer on that particular day -

MS. PERICONI:  
I'm curious as to what we're contributing.

MS. FUHRMANN:  
I don't know specifically. Kathy is not here right now to answer that question. I'm sorry; I didn't think to ask.

In your packets there is a sheet concerning the Baedeker guides. In 1950, during the appraisals the Baedeker guides were specifically listed. However, they were never accessioned. There are twelve books; the twelve volumes are listed here. On these guides, they are stamped Yacht Alva Library. We know they were definitely part of Mr. Vanderbilt's collection. In fact, one guide, specifically the Greek, includes a hand-drawn map in Mr. Vanderbilt's handwriting. Again, these were never accessioned. I realize that you have not had a chance from our last meeting to look this over previously, but Baedeker guides are historically significant. We do know from the appraisals back in 1950 that they were definitely here. Each guide is unique. You can see from the list. They are all stamped that they were part of the Alva Library. They include Mr. Vanderbilt's handwriting itself.

Florence is here to answer any questions any of you might have concerning these guides. She has brought one of the guides with her in case anyone would like to see them or see the one volume that she has brought in as an example.

I am recommending and making a motion that we accession these guides this evening to our collection. May I have a second?

MS. GRAY:  
Second.

MS. FUHRMANN:  
Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Any discussion? If there is no discussion, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It carries unanimously. (Vote: 6/0/0/9 Not Present: Dr. Pecorale. Absent: Mr. Luecke, Mr. Seides, Mr. Macchione, Mr. Hahn & Ms. LeBow. Three vacant positions.)

MS. FUHRMANN:  
Continuing with the books, with all the work that the electricians have been doing in the mansion, a lot of old books had to be taken off the shelves in the library. In doing so, they will have to be handled. As such this gave Florence a chance to look at them all. In doing so, she realized there was a lot to be learned from the books that we have in this house. She has applied for a New York State Discretionary Grant to survey our books. She has as part of the preliminary work in anticipation of that grant entered the books into Past Perfect.

The lighting changes in the mansion for the most are part back in place. The crystal has been repaired and put back. Ormond Beach, Florida, celebrated their centennial this year, during which they have sent us a lot of material regarding the Vanderbilt Cup so that we will be better prepared to celebrate its centennial in 2004.

The Garden Clubs who are interested in decorating for next Christmas, 2003, have already been contacted regarding the holiday theme.

Lance and Kathy Frost have been selected as speakers for the September 22 meeting of LIMA, which will take place at the Museums in Stony Brook.

The planetarium is currently showing the new "Eclipse Show," which is centered on the 350th anniversary of Huntington and refers to the 1653 eclipse that occurred in Huntington. The membership reception was very well attended.

That is the end of my report. Thank you all for accessioning those books.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions? Comments? Thank you for that report. Development Committee, Carl is not here. He has submitted a request for an absence, which I have agreed to and excused.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Oh, I forgot one thing. I apologize.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I have figures on planetarium school attendance for the year that I am going to pass around for everyone just to let everyone know that we had a very good year for school attendance. I apologize, Steve.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Michael.

MR. BROXMEYER:

The Development Committee met about two weeks ago to finalize some details for the upcoming event on August 1. Everything seems to be organized and ready to go.

The only project left, really, is selling tickets both to the event and for the raffle. Thus far, sales for the event is slightly over 50 percent of our projections, so hopefully in the next few weeks we will make a big push and get to our goal. The raffles are not doing great thus far. Hopefully we can improve upon that as well.

I'm going to let Marjorie talk for a few minutes, if she has anything to say about the raffles or any updates she wants to give.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Well, we just got in some additional prizes. We got a gift certificate from Tanger Outlets, which we will be adding to our prize list. I prepared a flyer, which I

understand, unfortunately, a number of trustees could not open. I will be faxing that tomorrow morning to Lance who will be sending that out to the trustees in a blind fax.

DR. GITTELMAN:

How could you not buy a raffle, with all those wonderful prizes?

MS. FUHRMANN:

We do have some wonderful prizes. We are getting prizes in. Hopefully people will sell the raffle tickets.

MR. BROXMEYER:

The goal for the raffle tickets to be sold was 2,000 tickets. Thus far we are at about 90. They are really not too difficult to sell. The guy who donated our website for free took 40 of them, went door-to-door in his community and sold them all in an hour. They're \$10 a piece. Hopefully each board member can go around to people they know and anyone they talk to and just sell them. I don't see any way we're going to get close to the goal without board members selling tickets.

Like Marjorie said, she prepared a flyer so if you need the flyer describing the gifts, which a lot of them are great, she can give it to you. It's really an easy sell, \$10. Hopefully we can come close to the goal.

That's the report. We have to schedule a meeting, which we can do afterward.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you for that report. Finance Committee, Tony Pecorale is not here.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll do it. Okay, cash flow is up. Expenses have remained in check. June appears that it will be a very good month for us as revenue is up. The May revenue was off slightly. The committee felt that was due significantly to the poor weather forecast, but we do feel that we will be on target for our year-end projections.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions? Comments? Personnel Committee.

MS. GRAY:

There is no report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Normandy Manor Committee.

MR. MALLAMO:

That committee has not met in the past month, but I would like to announce that Deborah Gray has agreed to serve as the museum's liaison to the community on the Normandy Manor project.

DR. GITTELMAN:

They are well served. Thank you, Deborah. Dinosaur Committee, Ed Hahn is not here.

MR. MALLAMO:  
There is nothing to report.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Director's Report.

MR. MALLAMO:  
Well, we're moving along with our capital projects. We are finally starting to see things come together. We are hoping that the wiring project is going to be done shortly with the last of the lighting fixtures for the interior being worked on now. Florence and I intend to take some of the exterior fixtures down to Philadelphia in the next couple of weeks to have the Yellon Company look at those to get an estimate. We have reserved some funding in the program for those, and we hope that some of them will come in under budget.

We have been working to get ready for the summer and the Berlin event. I think we have some great special event programs here. Our 1942 show has been very well received, very popular.

I did a radio interview this morning and had a nice write-up in Newsday yesterday that I think is in the packet. We're very appreciative of that.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Let's go back to the Dinosaur Committee for a minute. The exhibit is not open.

MR. MALLAMO:  
The exhibit is not open currently. I am waiting for the decision on exactly how they want us to secure the building that is there. We are in communications with the vendor that sold us the building regarding the issue of a Certificate of Occupancy and the trouble we have had in securing that. They are having their architect get back to us to answer the questions.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Can't we push this along? First we don't have any heat. Now we can't use it.

DR. ROGERS:  
We're losing revenue.

MR. MALLAMO:  
Yes, we are losing revenue.

DR. ROGERS:  
Do we have to have a Certificate of Occupancy for people to be able to go in there?

MR. MALLAMO:  
Yes, and until a satisfactory way of securing it to a foundation is identified - we had one plan done, and it doesn't look like the most cost effective plan. It's going to be very difficult to implement to get concrete trucks back in that area. We have oil tanks under there. We really don't want to have digging. What we're trying to do is rather than have a foundation poured all along the building, is have it poured at ten foot intervals. We can have a post put into a concrete form.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
That would seem to be a relatively -

MR. MALLAMO:  
-- Simple thing to do.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Yes, let's do it.

MR. MALLAMO:  
Once I get the go-ahead that that's acceptable, that's what we intend to do.

DR. ROGERS:  
Who has to give us the go-ahead?

MR. MALLAMO:  
The County Department of Public Works.

DR. ROGERS:  
Who has to wake them up?

MR. MALLAMO:  
The architect that did the plan, who was Doug Wilkie, he did the original plan, which didn't call for a foundation that pierced the ground. We were told that they want a foundation within the ground. I have had another engineer look at it, and Doug was here the week before last and looked at it, and he assures me that he'll get something in the very, very near future.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Any other questions?

(Dr. Anthony Pecorale entered the meeting at 7:55 p.m.)

MS. PERICONI:  
When did we discover we needed the CO on that? Did I miss something here?  
Wasn't it opened for a while?

MR. MALLAMO:  
Yes, it was opened, and then the Department of Public Works did calculations that due to the height of the property, the sea level elevation of where it's located, that it potentially could have higher wind gusts than the building was designed for because the building is literally 125 feet above sea level.

MR. BROXMEYER:  
What prompted them to look at that, though?

MS. PERICONI:  
That's what I don't understand.

MR. BROXMEYER:  
They just came down one day?

MR. MALLAMO:

No, we have to submit that. They knew that we were doing this, and when they came and inspected it, they were concerned on how it was secured to the ground. The vendor that sold us the building assured us that there was no problem. He has been putting these up all over Suffolk County. This is the first time he has had a problem.

MS. PERICONI:

So it's a question of the actual structure, that was the whole thing.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right.

MS. PERICONI:

So many places have temporary exhibits and "temporary" in quotes with no duration or defined period of time.

MR. MALLAMO:

I guess temporary is defined by less than 180 days, and that building is up for 350 days.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, but it's not up 350 days yet.

MR. MALLAMO:

Actually it is now.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is it?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Wow. Has it been that long?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, it was put up in June of last year.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Did Wilkie have this in his plans that we needed this?

MR. MALLAMO:

We were told we needed this last fall. At that point, we had -

DR. GITTELMAN:

When you say, "We were told," who told you?

MR. MALLAMO:

The Department of Public Works.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Who did the specs for the building?

MR. MALLAMO:

The vendor that we purchased the building from provided us with a set of specs, stamped by an architect, which I submitted to the Department of Public Works.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Right.

MR. MALLAMO:  
After several months, they got back to me and said this was not satisfactory.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
DPW.

MR. MALLAMO:  
Right.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
But the architect who stamped this -

MR. MALLAMO:  
Who is no longer alive.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
How can an architect who is not alive -

MR. MALLAMO:  
Well, this was the vendor's architect.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
I think the vendor has committed a fraud.

MR. MALLAMO:  
I'm not convinced that you're wrong on that. And these buildings are still being sold. You can pick up Newsday any day, and they're in the paper every day. They're being built all over Suffolk County.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Using a dead man's stamp.

MR. MALLAMO:  
He was alive at the time when he stamped it.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
He was alive at the time he stamped it but he's not alive now

MR. MALLAMO:  
But the building codes have changed in the interim. I'm told that it doesn't meet current codes.

MR. BROXMEYER:  
They have changed dramatically.

MR. MALLAMO:  
Yes, they did.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Yes, they did on January 1.

MR. MALLAMO:  
But they had even changed before that.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
So we have a vendor who sold us something with an architect stamp telling us that it was code. We relied upon that. We suffered loss of revenue. At the time we received this stamp, we have a reasonable reason to believe that the stamp is from a living human being who is giving us current specs.

MR. BROXMYER:  
Was he alive when he gave us the stamp?

DR. GITTELMAN:  
No, he was dead.

MR. MALLAMO:  
No, he was dead.

MS. FUHRMANN:  
He was dead when we got the stamp?

MR. MALLAMO:  
He was dead many years. We got faxed over the set of specs.

DR. ROGERS:  
Wait a minute. Let's get this straight. The vendor sent us a set of drawers, and these drawings were approved by his architect -

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Who was dead at the time.

DR. ROGERS:  
Those are the drawings he sent you. Now, first question, when he sent you these drawings, was this architect still alive?

DR. GITTELMAN:  
No.

MR. MALLAMO:  
No.

DR. ROGERS:  
That's the beginning of the story.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Right.

DR. ROGERS:

So now he sold you a building that's supposed to meet code, and he didn't have an architect to back it up.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But the dead architect couldn't keep up with the code.

DR. ROGERS:

The point here is this is the second time I have heard this, that we're waiting for the builder or the person or company that sold us this building to come up with the proper information.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But this is the first time I'm hearing the architect is dead.

DR. ROGERS:

Let's forget that for a moment. The fact remains that time is of the essence. Having somebody answer you and say, "Well, I'll get it for you," and nothing happens for six months, maybe if he turned around and gave us a solution to this thing almost immediately, we don't care whether the architect is dead or alive in reality.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Maybe.

DR. ROGERS:

But at this particular moment, we have a building here we cannot use that we paid for.

MR. MALLAMO:

That's right, and I think at the very least -

MR. BROXMEYER:

Is the hold-up with DPW or the contractor?

DR. GITTELMAN:

We wouldn't have a problem with the DPW if the architect had been alive to respond to the code.

MR. MALLAMO:

We were sold a building that we were told met the code.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Is DPW waiting for the -

MR. MALLAMO:

DPW asked me - let me back up a little bit because when I first started this, relying on my past experience with the County, up until a couple of years ago, County buildings didn't require building permits. That was a change in the building code that suddenly we needed a building permit. So we didn't apply for it before the building was built. We contacted the vendor that these buildings are being built all over Suffolk County.

MR. BROXMEYER:

You were also told it met code, and you had a stamp from an architect saying it met code.

MR. MALLAMO:

Actually I was told it met the code. There was no problem; the building was built.

DR. GITTELMAN:

And the building came in with plans that were stamped by an architect.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right.

DR. ROGERS:

At that time had the code been changed already?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, it had been changed already.

DR. ROGERS:

Is it the responsibility as a purchaser or is it the responsibility of the vendor to see that his structure met the code?

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's the responsibility of the vendor to make sure that - he's representing that an architect, who we assumed reviewed the plans under the current code, has approved it. I think it's a fraud.

DR. ROGERS:

Well, I don't think the vendor's placed an importance on getting this resolved.

MR. MALLAMO:

I think he placed an importance on avoiding me.

DR. ROGERS:

I suggest that the proper communication be sent to him letting him know that -

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do we have a lawyer that can send him a letter?

MR. MALLAMO:

I think a legal letter would get his attention more than - right now he -

DR. GITTELMAN:

Wait a minute, slow down. This builder is selling buildings stamped with an architect's seal from a dead architect that is not living up to code. He is committing a fraud against everyone he sells it to. I think the District Attorney's Office will pick up on this.

DR. ROGERS:

But, Mr. President, the statement was made before that this building is at a higher elevation than his other normal buildings are. And the statement was made here, apparently came from the Department of Public Works that because it's at a higher

elevation they're concerned that there is a wind factor and that might affect it. This building may be at code at a lower level of elevation.

DR. GITTELMAN:

There has to be an exception then in the small print on the plans on where to place it.

DR. ROGERS:

I'm just bringing up these facts. I'm certainly not on the vendor's side.

DR. GITTELMAN:

So someone else goes out and buys this Butler building today, puts it on level ground, and maybe there are some changes in code, which we know there are, you're a builder, you know there are changes in code. I'm willing to bet you he's still using the same stamp.

DR. ROGERS:

Probably.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I believe he is.

DR. GITTELMAN:

So what we have to do is pursue this with - enough's enough.

MR. MALLAMO:

He informed me he was referring it to another architect.

DR. ROGERS:

That's not satisfactory.

DR. GITTELMAN:

No, we have damages, loss of revenue.

DR. ROGERS:

We want to be compensated for the losses and the cost of putting the building up, for the cost of repair, and for the loss of revenue.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We should be getting compensatory damages.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Revenue losses for sure and any additional cost to make it to code.

DR. GITTELMAN:

And not only that, we should also be reporting this for its criminal implications.

MR. MALLAMO:

The DA?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Absolutely. He is knowingly selling an out-of-date stamp.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I don't disagree with that, but that may not get us to the resolution we want as quick as using an attorney's letter.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think we do both. I put both on the table.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I would do whatever we can to get the results faster.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But the thing is we want to recover some of our losses and the fact that we have been unable to use this building.

MR. MALLAMO:

And we save \$23,000 for the building.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Beside that, we probably lost triple that in revenue.

MR. BROXMEYER:

That's the number one goal, to get it back open as soon as possible.

DR. PECORALE:

Are the dinosaurs still in there?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes. We have had an exhibit that has had no traffic. It just sits there.

DR. PECORALE:

I'm just wondering if our best bet is to do this through the County Attorney's Office, or would we be better off pursuing this through our own attorney, an attorney who is willing to take this on a contingent basis.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think the County Attorney's Office.

DR. ROGERS:

I think he ought to be getting a very, very hot letter from the Vanderbilt Museum or our attorney and let him know that if this isn't cured within ten days, we attempt to proceed with whatever we have to proceed with.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think slightly differently. I think we should demand that he cure and that we reserve the right to take any action.

DR. ROGERS:

Okay, we can certainly do that.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I'm sure the press would love to get a piece of this scandal, using a dead architect's stamp.

DR. PECORALE:

We might get a free building out of this.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think we need more than a free building.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I have to agree with Steve on this.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We lost a lot of revenue.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I think this guy owes us a lot of money.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have been discouraged. Our programming has been -

MS. FUHRMANN:

There is a big sign by where the telephone lady sits saying, "Dinosaur exhibit closed indefinitely." People call up and ask to see this, and they just have to be told it's closed indefinitely.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What about marketing our school programs in the fall? It's a whole other venue we can't market.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I agree with Steve. This man owes us a chunk of money.

DR. ROGERS:

I don't understand how this reached such a crucial stage. The last meeting we knew that we needed some structural work done. Apparently we haven't gotten any results since then.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I don't understand why it didn't go anywhere either, but I certainly did not know that we had a dead architect.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, the architect we have isn't dead. The architect that we had that did the original plan, I asked and I came up with the idea - I said, "Couldn't we achieve this goal by just putting posts in? Wouldn't that do the same thing as putting in a full foundation all the way along?"

DR. ROGERS:

But that doesn't remove the responsibility from the Butler people.

MR. MALLAMO:

No, not at all.

DR. ROGERS:

So the Butler people have to be contacted and have to be told that unless they do this, this is going to happen or that is going to happen.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I think at this point, even if they do this, they still owe us.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Definitely. We need compensatory damages, and I think we should send them a copy of our minutes.

MR. MALLAMO:

All right, I'll get that out and ask for ten days.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Please go to the County Attorney's Office and ask for assistance.

MR. MALLAMO:

Sure, I'll give them a call tomorrow.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I guess the President's Report is next. Some of you may have seen an article in Sunday's Newsday. I provided copies for you here. I only want to draw your attention to one paragraph in particular - if you could pass those around - and that paragraph is on the third page. This was on the inner-cover of Newsday. It's the second page. On page three of four I have a perfect square around a paragraph. I just want to bring this to your attention. I also want to hand out a memo received today, which was a product of a message I sent out. I want you to read that, if you would, so you will get a better understanding.

In the first article, a trustee, who in my opinion was not in a position to be a spokesperson for the institution, spoke on his own and made the statement that the four new trustees to the aquarium board had - and I will read it, "They have got to understand that they are here to get us over the hump, and that has been made pretty plain to them." Quite frankly, I made it pretty plain to them that I would not raise funds for that institution before I went on the board. I said that I am the President of the Vanderbilt Museum, and that this is my priority.

Apparently in response to that, in conversations with Newsday's Editorial Board today, I gather this is from Bill Weiss who is the Vice President, who often acts as spokesperson, "The one point I was quite strong on was that the new aquarium trustees were not brought on board as fundraisers." While I did not dispute what Bill Weiss was quoted as saying -- this is Bill Mattimore, rather, I said, "It was a misunderstanding on Bill's part. John is Chairman of the Board for the Museums at Stony Brook and Steve is President of the Vanderbilt Museum. Their primary fundraising responsibilities are to their museums. The new men were brought on to expand representation on the board across the island and to share their expertise in running museums, including guidance and our fundraising efforts."

I have no problem serving on another museum board because I think I do have experience. I think that Long Island would benefit tremendously by having other cultural institutions. Just like Sagtikos Manor and other wonderful places, an

aquarium wouldn't hurt. But I would never subvert my efforts for this institution for them. I said to them that that's the terms. I told them before I joined. Apparently it got garbled in conversation, and I wanted to make it clear to you that they are wrong, despite what they printed. I told them and I pretty much made it clear that if I didn't have this cleared up by today, that it would be a problem. They have cleared it up, and they have told the Editorial Board of Newsday what the story is.

So does anybody have any questions about that? I suspect that many of us serve on other boards. I know that I do. We're active, involved people, and that's fine. The president of one board, I think, has a conflict in raising substantial funds, especially a museum versus a museum for another board. It would be something that I could not do. I just wanted you to know about that.

Another thing is, I am somewhat disappointed about the current situation with the dinosaur exhibit. I do feel that the information we're getting is kind of trickling out. One of the things that concerns me is I think that we have an asset. We've got to use it, or I think it starts to become more of a liability. I need to see it put into motion. That said, is there any unfinished business? New business?

MS. PERICONI:  
I have a question.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
Yes.

MS. PERICONI:  
Since we do not have names displayed here, how are they to know who is in attendance?

DR. GITTELMAN:  
They know you.

MS. FUHRMANN:  
She knows you.

MS. PERICONI:  
You do know us?

MS. PASTORE:  
Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
I bet you if you quiz her, she would get us all right.

DR. PECORALE:  
Would it be apropos if we ask that it be on the record that I had to work tonight at Stony Brook, and that's the reason why I was late.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
It's fine. You don't need to excuse that. I am asking that any trustee who has an absence for which they seek an excuse, to provide me with a letter, and I will acknowledge that absence as an excused absence. I will take up anything that I feel is questionable, if I have to, and we'll give this to the appropriate authorities. But at

least give me the written courtesy, if you don't mind. I'm not singling anybody out. I'm just asking for the written courtesy.

MS. PERICONI:

I wasn't aware we had to do that in writing. I did inform Lance that the meeting I missed two months ago was because I serve on the Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization Panel, which was having their meeting the same night as our meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It doesn't bother me if you do that for me now, but if you would help me create a paper trail, I would appreciate it, going back to the beginning of the year. I would appreciate that.

We have not established a need for an executive session. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

DR. ROGERS:

Can I say something?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

DR. ROGERS:

I'm very disappointed in this whole functioning of this dinosaur exhibit and what's happened with it. We got off to a bad start with the situation of the tent. We looked into trying to set it up over here. We thought we had a solution to the problem with the Butler building. It just doesn't seem to be going anywhere. Our hope was to get an exhibit going, get something started, get some revenue in here, and help plan to make this thing grow prior to having the brick and mortar finished. It doesn't seem to me that we have made any progress whatsoever. I don't know what is bogging it down, whether it was lack of communication, whether it's the fact that there were too many other things getting in the way with its importance. But this is typical. This just seems to me that - I didn't realize that the building had been closed for so long a period of time. I did know that they did have to do some work there, but I never realized that the exhibit was not being shown. Suffice it to say that I'm very dissatisfied with what I see.

MR. MALLAMO:

I think we're certainly dissatisfied, too, Bill. The public comes in here every day and they want to see the exhibit. Even when I get the go-ahead, this is what they want us to do, that's going to take money to do those improvements. That could range \$25,000 to secure this building to the ground. The irony is, we have had five Nor'easters this winter, and the building was perfectly fine. It never moved an inch, but I'm not an architect.

DR. ROGERS:

It seems to me that somebody has to have a responsibility for things being done that aren't done properly. If it is the vendor in this case, I think we ought to come down hard on them, not just sit back here and wait for something to happen, which obviously is not happening. Butler is a fairly substantial size company.

MR. MALLAMO:

This is not that company. It's not the Butler Company.

DR. ROGERS:  
Who is it?

MR. MALLAMO:  
Man Products.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
They're not a small company either.

MR. MALLAMO:  
No, they're not a small company either. They have a full-page ad in Newsday every single day.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
I know who they are.

DR. ROGERS:  
I don't think they would like to see this plastered all over the place.

MR. MALLAMO:  
I'm sure that they wouldn't.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
I don't think there is any way they're going to avoid it because these minutes are public.

DR. PECORALE:  
I have, in my career, had at least a half of dozen Butler buildings. As a matter of fact, I think I was one of the people that mentioned it when we first started talking about a building. I can tell you factually that I have been involved in at least the erection of a half of dozen of them on school property. I can't believe the problems you're having. We've never had these problems. There is a difference. I know that.

MR. MALLAMO:  
I can tell you what the difference is. We looked into Butler buildings, which were more than twice the price of this building. We saw this advertised. It was an inexpensive building for what we wanted to do. We looked at it; it looked fine. He assured us that there was no problem in putting this up here. After the building was up, these issues came up.

DR. ROGERS:  
Did their people put the building up?

MR. MALLAMO:  
Yes. Their people installed the building.

DR. ROGERS:  
They have direct responsibility. They sold you something that you cannot use and is not being used.

DR. PECORALE:  
Do we have a contract with them?

MR. MALLAMO:  
Yes.

DR. PECORALE:  
And the contract has been reviewed by our attorneys?

MR. MALLAMO:  
No, I have not sent it to our attorneys. I will do that tomorrow.

DR. PECORALE:  
I concur with Mr. Rogers. The only thing is I would like to withhold any comments that I would make about it until after our attorneys have had an opportunity to look at it, because I wouldn't want to jeopardize any of our rights. I would hope that we would move on it as quickly as possible because that could be a substantial fundraiser for the museum.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
I agree with both of you.

DR. PECORALE:  
May I ask that we have a five-minute short meeting because I have something I need to report.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
I have a request for an executive session.

MS. FUHRMANN:  
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? We'll go into executive session. (Vote: 7/0/0/8 Absent: Mr. Luecke, Mr. Seides, Mr. Macchione, Mr. Hahn & Ms. LeBow. Three vacant positions.)

Are we going to need a stenographer after the executive session?

DR. PECORALE:  
I don't believe there's going to be action being taken afterward.

DR. GITTELMAN:  
So we'll call it an evening. We'll go in the back. Thank you.

(Dr. Steven Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.)

SG/ap

