

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 October 9, 2003 in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President
Carl Luecke - 1st Vice President
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann - Secretary
Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Treasurer
Deborah Gray - Trustee
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee
Bertram E. Seides - Trustee
William Macchione - Trustee
Edward J. Hahn - Trustee
Mary Anne Jedrlinic - Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director
Russ Skadl - Staff
Barbara Oster - Staff
Florence Ogg - Staff
Mary Ann Zachevsky - Staff
Leslie Tannen - Todd Shapiro Associates

Excused Absence:

Michael Broxmeyer
Susan LeBow

Absent:

Donna deLuca Periconi - Trustee

Minutes transcribed by:

Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

(Dr. Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

I would like to call the meeting to order. 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. FUHRMANN:

Do you want me to do it?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Would you make one, please? Thank you. Is there anybody who wishes to address the board or ask questions? Marge, could you please bring up the issue of our minutes from the last meeting?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move that the minutes of the meeting held July 9, 2003 be accepted as written.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a second?

MR. MACCHIONE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It passes unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Broxmeyer, Ms. LeBow & Ms. Periconi. Two vacant positions.) I'm going to make a change in the agenda. I'm going to move the Education and Exhibits Committee into the next slot ahead of the Public Relation's Report. Are you prepared to make your report, Marge?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Sure, if you give me two seconds. Florence, are you ready?

MS. OGG:

Yes.

MS. FURHMANN:

I'm going to start by passing around information. We're going to pass around our summer numbers for our summer programs. There are attendance numbers for camp, for both the planetarium and the museum, attendance and revenues, and some very nice letters that we have received.

We're also going to pass around some information on Alva voyages. In your folders everyone should have information on Alva materials that we would like to accession tonight, which is the main thrust of the first part of our report tonight. If you could please pull all of that out, that would be great. What this material has to do with is the construction of the Alva. In our archives currently we have plenty of material on what Mr. Vanderbilt did with the Alva, where he took it, what he gathered with it, and how he utilized it. We did not have a lot of material on how it was made or about how it was built, but now we do. I would like to talk about that for a minute.

What we have - and Florence has some materials to show us all. Does everyone have that memo that I stuck in your folders? What we have here are original documents and photographs from the chief engineer of the Alva who oversaw the building of the Alva. This will fill a hole in our collection. These are the machine specifications, as well as the negotiations. I never knew that Mrs. Vanderbilt played a role in the building of the Alva. We now have documentation on her role.

What our intention is here is we're going to build a whole exhibit around this. We will also use it to supplement our other exhibit, the marine museum, with the fish and the invertebrates. We're going to develop an educational program for tech

students, for high school students, and for engineering students on ship construction.

We would like to show you some of this material prior to accession. I have to put on white gloves first.

MS. OGG:

Do you want me to say something about these pictures?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I want to finish first.

MS. OGG:

Okay.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Everyone here can look at these. These are the photographs of the Alva being constructed. There are pictures of the Alva being launched from a shipyard in Germany. The Board would like to thank Florence officially, so on behalf of the Board, we would like to thank you for acquiring all of this for us.

How we got this was Florence received communication from the engineer's granddaughter asking her what she should do with this. This is some of the documentation, if you would like to look. You can see how all of this was furnished and also see all the equipment on the decks. She talked this woman into giving this to us rather than selling it herself or donating it to another museum. This is a cigarette case from the Alva. This will be ours forever. This is a tremendous find for our museum. This is something we had no information about. We would again like to thank Florence for all this hard work in convincing this woman to do this. This is the actual log, the lifeboats, deck equipment, all the specifications, everything that happened. This is his log of all the work that was done. We know how many screws it took to make the Alva.

MS. OGG:

Marge, why don't I take this one around.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Okay. Anyway, these are the actual original documents on the building of the Alva. I told you, Tony, that you would really like this stuff. We would immediately like to accession this so that it can be protected forever, which is what we promised this woman. This was how they were going to heat the water.

DR. PECORALE:

That's the original contract.

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's the original contract, original specs, how things were changed and who did what. This is really a wonderful document and wonderful documentation for us. We would like the Trustees to accession the material outlined in Florence's memo dated September 26, 2003 to Lance concerning accessioning donated materials on the yacht Alva to the museum's collection. Could I get a second?

MS. GRAY:

Second.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Deborah Gray seconded. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It passes unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Broxmeyer, Ms. LeBow & Ms. Periconi. Two vacant positions.) I would like to thank Marge and Florence for their great work. I think we should send a letter of thanks from the board to the contributor.

MS. OGG:
That would be great from the board.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Okay, let me go on with the rest of the report. Thank you all for accessioning this so quickly. Great job. Before she runs off, on behalf of the Board, congratulations to Florence. In two weeks her daughter, Nicole, is getting married.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Which is the reason why we moved this section of the meeting up front so Florence could leave.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Yes, scoot out and do your future mother-in-law things and mother of the bride things.

The summer camp numbers, as I said, are being passed around. All summer camp programs were full for the whole summer. We have three educators leaving. Currently, Kathy, who is our educational coordinator, is in the process of interviewing new educators to fill those positions. Bookings are up this year, and it looks like we will have a good fall program and spring program in education.

The invertebrate room now has a book in eighteen point font explaining all of the specimens that are out on exhibit. It's eighteen point for those who are visually handicapped so they can read it. The book is a big hit.

For those of you who have not been to the bird room lately, the bird room has been completely cleaned. The birds have been cleaned. I was in there when the Ross School was there recently. It was a middle school class. For those of you who don't know middle school grades, they're sixth through eighth. These kids were so excited to be looking at these stuffed birds. They were running from bird to bird and just pointing at all the different colors. They were not nonchalant. They were excited to be looking at old birds hanging out on these shelves. It was wonderful. Lance was with me to see the excitement in these middle school kids on a school trip going, "Wow, look at that one. Look at that one."

The glass on the cabinets are now being cleaned, which will make them look even better. The colors that have not been there for years you can now see on these feathers. It's wonderful.

The next room to be done will be the Sudan trophy room. We should be hearing in December on our grant request for "Saving America's Treasurers." That would be the grant to rehabilitate the habitat area dioramas.

For those of you who were here at the Mars event, it was a tremendous success. We had three showings. One of the side successes was because there was such a tremendous turnout, there was a very, very long wait to view the telescopes to see the planetarium shows, but there were special lines if you were a member, and those were much, much shorter. So Lance went up and down the rows selling memberships. We took in a couple of thousand dollars in new members. That was a wonderful side benefit of our Mars events. The planetarium staff showed five consecutive planetarium shows over the Mars events. They were very well attended. There was a great deal of very good press. In fact, I heard Lance on NPR that week, not just the local NPR, but they picked him up on the national show.

The next major planetarium event will be the lunar eclipse, which is November 8. They plan a live lecture show, and then they're going to have a show with an eclipse. The actual time of the lunar eclipse is 8:04 p.m. They will have chairs out. You can bring your own chairs. The place will be opened until dawn. They are also planning an event for the Leonids. That will be a 3:00 a.m. to sunrise event. Then they will have something else the night before.

We had very good press coverage on our "Long Island Lobster Die-off" event. This is something we're doing in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative. We are doing this in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative. We have developed an educational program for middle school children grades, five through eight, as well as high school on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. There is a public show, as well.

New programs are being written by planetarium staff on exploring solar systems, star constellation and galaxies. These new programs are doing well.

Lance and Kathy Frost of our staff spoke at the last LIMA meeting on September 22. They were very well received. Lance spoke on policies and procedures in museums. Kathy spoke on educating the handicapped. Unfortunately, we were not able to attend that event.

Florence has also contacted eight garden clubs, and they will be doing the holiday decorating at the mansion. The year is 1942 for holiday decorating. The Cornell master gardeners this year will bring live wreaths outside and outside decorating for the holidays.

The Vanderbilt Cup Musical - we have obtained copies of the 1907 original program of the first production of the musical in the State of Kansas and a script from that original program from Kansas. We're looking for funding to produce the play for the 100th anniversary of the first Vanderbilt Cup Race on Long Island. The 100th anniversary will be in 2004.

Again, I want to just say to Florence what a great job getting all the Alva information for us. Thank you very much for just doggedly pursuing all of that so that we can share that with everyone and everyone in the future when they come to the museum. We will now have a much more complete picture of the Alva. Thank you again. That's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Thank you. Any questions?

DR. PECORALE:
As part of the Education Report, can we also accept the Cornell Cooperative Extension's final report for the programs that they had the last year?

DR. GITTELMAN:
Are you making a motion, Tony?

DR. PECORALE:
I would just like that it would also be accepted as part of the Education Report because it is part of that.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Okay.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Steve, would you like me to make a motion on that?

DR. PECORALE:
Would you just accept that it's part of your report?

MS. FUHRMANN:
I sure will.

DR. PECORALE:
Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Public Relation's Report.

MS. TANNEN:
Good evening, everyone. We have a lot of material to share with you tonight going all the way back to the beginning of July with the Corvette car show.

MR. MALLAMO:
I know you have a number of videos. Would you rather postpone them to a future time?

DR. GITTELMAN:
I think that we're going to do that.

MS. TANNEN:
Okay. As you see, there are also quite a few clips. Obviously, the priority toward the beginning of the summer was to get as much publicity as possible for the gala. I think we were fairly successful with that - television, radio, dailies, weeklies, internet. As the summer moved on, we were publicizing the activities going on here. In August there was a lot of publicity for the Mars viewing, as well as the meteor showers. September, we're back again to the events and of course in October the emphasis is on the fall festival and the Halloween activities.

MR. MALLAMO:

You also did an excellent job with the lobster show publicity.

MS. TANNEN:

Thank you.

MR. MALLAMO:

That was covered by so many major publications.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions? Thank you very much. Buildings and Grounds.

MR. SEIDES:

I have been in touch with Bill Dieck frequently regarding many of the conditions here at the museum and the campus, and we discussed pretty much every building thoroughly. The primary issue right now is securing heat and making sure the furnaces are up. I would just like to say there has been a delay in the firing up of the gas furnaces. We are hopeful that we don't have any extended problems with the old furnaces. Bill is going to be looking after them this coming week very carefully to make sure that they are up and operating properly.

I would just like to at this moment ask Lance if he has anything more to add in this regard because it is a priority concern.

MR. MALLAMO:

We have to install a new gas line to the mansion. Last winter we had a temporary line installed. That had to be removed for excavation that is to take place, I'm told, next week to install the air conditioning chillers and then that can be installed. I'm told it should be connected by November 1. That's what we're shooting for. Let's pray we have some more seventy-degree days for the next few weeks.

MR. SEIDES:

The weather has worked out in our favor. Thank you, Lance.

I would also just like to add that on a number of occasions, I have been here at the site, and I have walked around and observed the conditions. I would like to thank Bill and the Buildings and Grounds men who maintain these grounds. They did a terrific job this summer. So far, things look terrific this fall, and we would just like to extend a thank you to you again.

DR. GITTELMAN:

This will fold into the Dinosaur Committee, as well, but I'm going to bring it up here. Ed, you can join me on this if you want. We have a structure. We have problems with the structure. Lance has obtained a number of bids on repairing - or should I say, bringing the structure up to code.

In addition to that, Lance has obtained some pricing on heating the building. Would the Buildings and Grounds Committee please work with the Dinosaur Committee and with the Director to bring a final proposal together because my understanding is that the contractor who gave us the most favorable price is currently on the grounds.

Once he removes his equipment, it will be a lot more expensive to get him back. I think we need to meet immediately on that subject, get together what it will cost, and move forward.

MR. SEIDES:

I have no problem with that. Let's set a date.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's between you two.

DR. PECORALE:

In view of those comments, do you need authorization to move forward? Would you like to have authorization to move forward?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

DR. PECORALE:

I'll move that the President, the Executive Director, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee be authorized to take appropriate action as necessary prior to our next meeting, if it is necessary.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Appropriate action to bring the building or the dinosaur exhibit up to code.

MR. LUECKE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It passes unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Broxmeyer, Ms. LeBow & Ms. Periconi. Two vacant positions.) Thank you.

DR. ROGERS:

What is the cost on that?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think what we have to do is get the costs nailed down and then decide how we're going to act predicated on those costs. I just don't want to throw out numbers until the two committees meet, until Lance brings his estimates - not estimates but bids to the table, and you come up with a budget that you can count on. Once we know that, then we'll make decisions. I would not make decisions until we know the numbers. Development Committee.

MR. LUECKE:

I would like to thank every board member for their help in the last gala. Our 2003 gala was financially significantly more successful than the 2002 gala, and the 2002 gala was about double the 2001 gala. So each year we seem to be raising more money for the museum.

We would like to start thinking now about next year's gala. With that in mind, there are three things I'd like to mention. Number one, next year's gala will be held in September instead of in August. I believe the date we chose was September 10.

Secondly, we are thinking about an honoree for next year.

Thirdly, a new piece of our fund raising was a raffle. Marge was kind enough to run the raffle, which was very successful. She did a lot of work on that, and it was very successful to the point where we want to have another raffle next year. We would like to start it early.

To sum up, thank you very much for your help this year. Next year we're going to try to raise additional funds.

DR. GITTELMAN:

One of the concerns I have regarding the gala is, have thank you letters been sent out to contributors?

MR. MALLAMO:

In most cases they have. There are a few where we are still crunching the numbers on them.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Have tax letters been sent out?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are thank you letters being sent separately from tax letters?

MR. MALLAMO:

No, they have been included within it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Fleet was a tremendous supporter of this, as they have been in the past. I want to make sure that all of their efforts - they went beyond whatever they have done previously. I think their total came to \$13,000.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I don't know if you have that in your numbers.

MR. LUECKE:

The last number I remember was \$12,500.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Right.

MR. MALLAMO:

But we were awaiting \$5,000 of that, and that has arrived.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That has arrived.

MR. LUECKE:

Okay, it's very important that we send out the thank you letters and hopefully achieve the same donations or more from the same people.

DR. GITTELMAN:

In Fleet's case, it came from a number of divisions. So if you would, I would like to be a signer on those letters if I could, please.

MR. MALLAMO:

Sure.

MR. LUECKE:

You're talking about just the Fleet letters?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, just the Fleet letters. Unless - any letters you want. Dinosaur Committee.

MR. HAHN:

We have a draft of a letter from the County Attorney to MAN Products detailing the problems with the building and the history of events. I assume that the County Attorney is waiting for feedback from us about the letter. The letter is pretty good. It could use a little bit sharper teeth perhaps toward the end, but they seem to be moving forward with it, the County Attorney's Office anyway, and hopefully this will at least generate some conversation with the company about this situation and an amicable resolution.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Simultaneously, Bill Rogers has had conversations with New York Tech. Bill, is there anything you want to report on that?

DR. ROGERS:

Well, the last conversation as of earlier tonight is that the Comptroller of New York Tech has been authorized to cut a check for \$50,000 to replace the monies that Ray Ann was supposed to return to us. I think that should be forthcoming in the next few days.

The other matter of the twenty some odd thousand dollars for merchandise which we gave to the Dinosaur exhibit, they claim - or at least the Chairman of New York Tech does not have information on receipt of that merchandise, but we've kept that open. If we can produce satisfactory evidence that we gave this to Ray Ann, they will reimburse us for it. For all intents and purposes, we should be made whole at this point from the university.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's about as good a news as we can expect there. In addition to that, Bill was kind enough to give me a check also, which goes into the special fund for \$50,000 to fund the project that we have been working on. I'm very grateful for him doing that tonight.

MR. MALLAMO:

Thank you, Bill.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you very much. We seem to be back on the right track. Finance Committee.

DR. PECORALE:

Each member of the board has a copy of the Treasurer's Report for the actuals through the end of August. As may be noted, things are still very tight in our budget. We will have to continue to be very careful with it. I would like the board to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for the actuals through August.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do you need a resolution?

DR. PECORALE:

Just acknowledge receipt.

DR. GITTELMAN:

So noted.

DR. PECORALE:

In addition, each member of the board has our report from our independent auditor. The report is available for each of you, and copies have been sent on, as I understand, to the County Legislature. So, again, I would like the board to acknowledge receipt of the 2002 financial report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

So acknowledged.

DR. PECORALE:

In addition, in each of our Trustees' packets is material involving the budget for the year 2004. Our Executive Director has made some amendments to the budget. This has to be submitted to our County Executive and the County Legislature. I would like the board to accept a motion to amend the proposed 2004 budget in accordance with the recommendations of our Executive Director. Hopefully we can do that very, very quickly so that you can see where the changes have occurred. You will note that in the income area, there was a modification to the admissions. There was also a modification to our personnel salaries section on page two, the eleven hundred code. So we will need a motion to accept the amended budget, since this must be submitted in accordance with the bylaws of our directorship. If there are any questions, we'd be happy to answer them.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a second to that motion?

MR. LUECKE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any further discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It passes unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Broxmeyer, Ms. LeBow & Ms. Periconi. Two vacant positions.)

DR. PECORALE:

That's it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Normandy Manor Committee, Deborah Gray.

MS. GRAY:

I was asked by Lance to go to a local meeting with our local Legislator, Mr. Cooper, and some of the neighbors whose properties adjoin Normandy Manor. I think that the neighbors were raising concerns that any neighbor would raise when a new piece of property is purchased and are wondering about the future use of that property.

I think as a result of that meeting, we did invite them to a meeting the museum was having as it related to the historic preservation of the property. Many of the neighbors were there. We have also asked one of the neighbors who, as I understand it, is a volunteer at the museum, to act as a liaison between us and the neighborhood as it relates to big events where parking could be perceived as a nuisance on their street.

I think everything we have done so far has been very neighborly and has been somewhat successful in addressing their issues. They have not called another meeting of the local neighborhood group, so I would assume at this point that most of the concerns have been addressed, but if there is anything new, I will keep the board informed.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Are there any questions or comments? Thank you for that report. Personnel Committee, Deborah.

MS. GRAY:

The Personnel Committee has met four times since July. It is clear from a review of the organizational structure of the Vanderbilt that a reorganization of certain staff will effectively streamline operations and enable directors and managers to more efficiently utilize various personnel.

The specific reorganization proposed will require fewer staff in certain areas and divisions and additional staff in others. Because of the elimination of certain staff, the proposed reorganization was carefully considered. It is expected to increase productivity by reducing redundant managerial tasks and consolidating others. Reforming the organizational structure in this manner conforms to the operating budget. I think Lance is right now handing out a new table of organization that is part of the review the Personnel Committee has undertaken. I think we need a motion to accept this new table of organization.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I have a motion to accept the table of organization from Deborah Gray. Do I have a second?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll second it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I have a second from Marge Fuhrmann. Is there further discussion? Bill Rogers.

DR. ROGERS:

No discussion.

DR. GITTELMAN:

No discussion. Any further discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It passes unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Broxmeyer, Ms. LeBow & Ms. Periconi. Two vacant positions.)

Thank you for that report. Thank you for your hard work. Director's Report, Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:

As several other Trustees have mentioned, we have unveiled a new show here at the planetarium in conjunction with Cornell Cooperative Extension. This is our first major cooperative venture with Cornell to turn the planetarium into an oceanarium for at least a half an hour. We focused on the lobster die-off and what can be done to preserve the ecosystem of Long Island Sound. I think Mr. Vanderbilt would be very pleased to see us doing research based here at the museum to study this issue and to provoke public interest and understanding of this very, very important subject. We are very thrilled to be sponsoring this show. It's an excellent show.

I'm happy to report that the \$5,000 Fleet bank grant that was solicited for this in conjunction with the gala, that grant enabled us to purchase new equipment for the planetarium that will allow us not only to complete this show but to provide future shows in the planetarium using a variety of new special effects that we did not have before in conjunction with computers. We are very grateful to Fleet for providing that very important funding, which would not have made this show possible.

Mrs. Fuhrmann talked about the Alva donation that was accessioned tonight and the holiday plans, but I am going to add that the year 1942 for holiday decorations will center around the Alva. Mr. Vanderbilt had given the Alva to the Navy the year before. Our interpretive theme will be that the house is being decorated to remind him of the importance of the Alva, so you will see that theme coming up in many, many different rooms. We will be able to incorporate a number of the elements of the new donation right into that so that people will get to see those for the first time.

Our capital projects are rolling along very well. The seawall is about 99 percent complete. If I could get my video camera hooked up over here I can show you a view of that that was taken earlier today. I will have to go in and get that.

The lighting project is about 95 percent complete. In fact, that is what enabled the change in the gallery. I don't think you actually mentioned it was the lighting that makes these birds look so phenomenal. It is absolutely astounding when you go down to these galleries now. I have seen things in the exhibit cases that I never saw before. It really is quite amazing. To walk into these and see them radiate light and not hear that annoying hum of the ballast that we're so used to - even the teachers that bring students here can't believe the difference in our programming from this year.

This week we are starting our tour lighting system, which will enable our guides to flip one switch and turn on every light that goes on when the tour is on instead of having a guide go through five minutes before and turning on every lamp and switch and walking on the carpet. This will be a major improvement.

As I said earlier, the HVAC, once the air conditioner chillers are put in starting next week, that should be largely complete. The plumbing project is now going out to bid involving rehabilitating the bathrooms on the lower level. Hopefully by next year's gala event we will have suitable ADA compliant public bathrooms available on the lower level of the mansion.

The security system in Normandy Manor, I'm happy to say, has been completed. We are just awaiting the connection of the final phone line installation, and we'll be ready to go over there.

We are also working on a number of new grants. My special assistant, Rob Schneider, has completed a grant to the Suffolk Decentralization Program of the New York State Council on the Arts to reproduce the Broadway show "The Vanderbilt Cup" here at the museum in the 2004 year in conjunction with the 100th anniversary celebration of the Vanderbilt Parkway, the Long Island Motor Parkway.

We are also writing a grant right now for storm water management from runoff here at the museum to kind of screen out some of the debris that collects in our drains and goes into Northport Harbor. We want to protect the lobsters as much as we can, so we thought that was a great system to put in, a filtration system, which we don't have in place now. Those grants will be out by tomorrow night. We look forward to another great fall here at the museum. That's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Let's get the video going.

MR. MALLAMO:
I'll go get it.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Mary Anne, I hope you will forgive me. I should have introduced you at the beginning of the meeting.

MS. JEDRLINIC:
That's okay.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We have a new Trustee. I hope I'm pronouncing it correctly --

MS. JEDRLINIC:
You better pronounce it correctly because it's spelled wrong here.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Do you know how many times I spelled this named for them. You forgot the "e" on Ann.

MS. JEDRLINIC:
That's okay. Anyway, go ahead.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I spoke to Mary Anne at length -

MR. MALLAMO:

I apologize about the misspelling, Mary Anne.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It took you six years to get the spelling right on mine. It's just the first night for her.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's spelled right on the folder. That's what I did.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Anyway, Mary Anne is a professional educator. She is very interested in - why don't you tell us about yourself.

MS. JEDRLINIC:

My name is Mary Anne Jedrlinic. I currently teach Spanish at Candlewood Middle School in the Half Hollow Hills School District, which is in Dix Hills not too far from here. Prior to that, I taught on the high school level at Saint John the Baptist High School. Prior to that I was home for 10 years. I have three children, Lord have mercy on me, 16, 14, and 12. Prior to that I worked for 12 years in marketing for a big retailer called Kinney Shoe Corporation, which owned many different chains of specialty stores in malls, stores like Kinney Shoes, Foot Locker, Lady Foot Locker, Champs Sports. Some of them are defunct now. Many of them still exist. That's about it. I have always liked the museum. I have brought my kids here many times as they were growing up. Now they don't want to be seen with me. Just hearing everything tonight, it's a very fascinating place. There is a lot more going on than I had ever imagined. I'm glad to be here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's great. You also had some views about education and how to teach children.

MS. JEDRLINIC:

Yes, I know the best way for children to learn and to captivate them the best is through self-discovery. Instead of lecturing constantly to them and telling them things, set up situations where they can explore on their own and draw their own conclusions and then teach each other. That is absolutely the best way, especially in that middle school age. It's probably the best way to have them learn anything. Anything that's interactive - when I teach time in Spanish, I don't say, "You add this," or, "You do this or that." I put examples on the board. I tell them to talk to their neighbor. Figure out what's going on here. Then when you go on the other side of the clock, figure out what's going on there. They learn so well. They have fun. It's interesting. It's a lot of work up front for a teacher, but in the end in the classroom the kids do all the work.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm thrilled to have you here.

MS. JEDRLINIC:

Thank you. I think it's going to be fun. It's a little overwhelming right now, but I do think it's going to be fun.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You have to learn how to duck.

MR. MALLAMO:
You won't be bored. We can assure you of that.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:
Okay, are you ready? This is a view of the seaplane hangar.

DR. GITTELMAN:
From the back.

MR. MALLAMO:
From the land side. This area is where the new boardwalk for the Rogers waterfront is going to be built coming off the side of the building, going toward the boathouse. The area to the right where this wall has been moved back about 15 feet, this is going to be the new outdoor classroom space we'll be developing. Further down here, you will see where the entrance to the classroom and the seaplane hangar will be. This area actually will connect with the new ramp. There will be a staircase to the beach right here. The fencing has all been installed. Everything is here now but the board walk, which will go down the length of the beach. You can see the huge distance that we're talking about here. It's like 600 feet. It drops right off on the seawall. That's downtown Northport right over here.

DR. GITTELMAN:
He needed a few more minutes on the battery. That's where we ended.

MR. MALLAMO:
Yes, the battery ran out.

MS. JEDRLINIC:
You're really going to develop one of the most beautiful spots there.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Absolutely.

MS. JEDRLINIC:
It's frustrating when you come here and you can see the water but you can't get to it.

MR. MALLAMO:
No, you can't get to it.

DR. GITTELMAN:
You will be able to take a walk. That's the southern-most tip. Of course, you have the seaplane hangar and between the seaplane hangar and the boathouse is where it's really going to be focused. We have these two anchors, and I think we have a waterfront potential bar none.

MS. JEDRLINIC:
That's great.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You can't top that. I can't top Bill's kind donation tonight, but I have to establish a Nominating Committee. Let me explain to you if you haven't been here before, each year we nominate a slate of officers. Everybody is eligible for every position. The way we do it is that typically at the October meeting, which this qualifies for, we pick a Nominating Committee. It can be three or five Trustees, but we try to keep it as an odd number of Trustees. Anyone can serve. That Nominating Committee comes back to us with a slate of officers I guess at the last meeting of the year. Then in January, we vote on the slate, but anyone who has not been nominated can put their name in at that time in addition. So just because the Nominating Committee has come up with a slate, it doesn't mean that someone else can't oppose and run for any slot they would like. Can we please begin the process of nominating your colleagues to be on the Nominating Committee. Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

I would like to nominate Carl Luecke.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a second?

MR. MACCHIONE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Carl.

MR. LUECKE:

I would like to nominate Michael Broxmeyer.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a second?

MR. MACCHIONE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

I would like to nominate Deborah Gray.

MR. LUECKE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's three. Are there more nominations? Would someone like to make a motion to vote on these nominations?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I would like to make a motion to close the nominations.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can I have a motion to vote on the slate?

DR. PECORALE:

I would like to move that the Secretary cast one vote on behalf of the board to close nominations and accept these-

DR. GITTELMAN:

I have to back up procedurally and give Marge a second for her motion. She moves that the nominations be closed.

DR. PECORALE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

And you would like to make a motion -

DR. PECORALE:

That the Secretary cast one vote on behalf of the nominees.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do have I have a second for that?

MR. MACCHIONE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It passes unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5
Absent: Mr. Broxmeyer, Ms. LeBow & Ms. Periconi. Two vacant positions.) Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

When you go to new business I just wanted to bring something up.

DR. GITTELMAN:

No problem. Having established a Nominating Committee and having seen Lance's report, I'm very moved by the video. I have waited a decade to see the first leg of the waterfront take the form of brick and mortar. You have to go down and see it if you haven't already. It really blows my mind. It excites me. It's something that I'm very excited about. I think it's first class, and it's going to take this place to a new level. We just have to keep our due diligence on keeping funding and the capital projects going, and we will get there. To me, it's a wonderful accomplishment for all of us, the whole staff, the board, and to the people of Suffolk County and all of Long Island. Having said that, is there any unfinished business?

MR. HAHN:

The Carlton on the Park arbitration, it was initially scheduled for October 24. However, the arbitrator that was chosen, former Judge Robins passed away this last weekend, so we will be getting a new date and they will choose a new arbitrator. I think there was to be some discussion about authorization during the course of the arbitration if settlement negotiations are being recommended by the judge arbitrator.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Well, certainly since that falls into the category of litigation, unless you want to go into executive session, I would rather not talk about it here.

MR. HAHN:
Maybe we should go into executive session.

DR. PECORALE:
Do you need an executive session?

DR. GITTELMAN:
Do you need to discuss this tonight?

MR. HAHN:
When is the next meeting?

MS. FUHRMANN:
The end of November.

MR. LUECKE:
November 17 or 18.

MR. MALLAMO:
November 18.

MR. HAHN:
I don't think we'll have it scheduled before then, so we can discuss it at that time.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Okay, then we will. In fact, you can bring it up for discussion with the Finance Committee.

MR. HAHN:
Okay.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Is there any other new business? Bill.

DR. ROGERS:
Question, how much progress has been made toward the hangar? How far have we gotten to convert that for a permanent dinosaur home?

MR. MALLAMO:
Bill, they have selected the architect, David Swift Associates, who did the plan on the improvements to Normandy Manor. He will be working on that. I have met with him, and we have gone over a preliminary design. It's not ready to go out to bid yet at this time, but they have told me that they have authorized a portion of funding to repair the ramp in front of the seaplane hangar, which wasn't initially included, but they recognized that they were going to need that done first before they can start working on the doors.

There has been some concern by the architect if there is enough funding in the budget to complete the building as we originally hoped, so we have been working on how we can phase it in. It may be that we don't do the mezzanine level right up front. We will try to design it in such a way where that can be added in or put in the

bid as an alternative so that we don't have to stop the project. That's what we're working on right now.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I also spoke to the architect and made a very strong point that it's very important that we propose things that we can afford. I think one of the problems that we have had is that at times the budgets, when they finally came time to bid things out, the scope of the project was bigger than our pocketbook. He understands that.

Any other new business? Yes, Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

One of the things that I recall when I first became a Trustee was the special trip around the museum that I was taken on by the Executive Director. We have a couple of new Trustees, and I don't know whether we do that anymore, but it was to give the new Trustees a behind the scenes look at everything, to go down in the habitat, places that are closed off now, but to show them everything here. I would just like to ask that the new Trustees, if they have not had the opportunity, that they be afforded an opportunity at their convenience on a day when you can take them, Lance, to let them see the boat house. If they haven't been there, they will just be amazed at what we have here at the museum. This truly is a treasure. I don't know, Mary Anne, have you been to the manor house and to all the different -

MS. JEDRLINIC:

I have been here many times but not for many years now, maybe four or five years.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You are due a trip; Tony is right.

DR. PECORALE:

I would like to recommend that we do and, again, if any Trustee who hasn't had the opportunity who has the time, it certainly is an eye-opener to really see everything that is here. I would recommend that if you can do it, Lance -

MR. MALLAMO:

Absolutely, I'll even extend that to any Trustee who has been here a while but maybe hasn't taken the tour because it's probably a lot different from the last time you were on one. It's good to see the changes.

DR. ROGERS:

The last time we spoke you had taken me down to the habitat, and I was amazed at what was down there. We also at that time had some discussion about getting some course as to try to get part of that opened as quickly as possible. Has that ever gone forth? Have we ever gotten any quotations on that?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I got a quote from the architect that we brought down there. I can get all that information to you, Bill.

DR. ROGERS:

I'd like to see it.

MR. MALLAMO:

Sure. He broke it down. He did a fine job breaking it down. We will have to have architectural services down here on anything we do. DPW has to know what we're doing so that we're not messing up something else somewhere down the line. I will be happy to get that to you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think that's a good suggestion, Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

I truly would be willing to go around again. I thought the time I went around the first time was great. I would like to go back - and I'm sure there will be other things that I haven't seen.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's a whole new old place. Is there a need for executive session? We have not. Is there anybody who feels there is a need for executive session. Can I have a motion to adjourn?

DR. PECORALE:

Motion.

MR. MACCHIONE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? We are adjourned. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Mr. Broxmeyer, Ms. LeBow & Ms. Periconi. Two vacant positions.)

(Dr. Steven Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.)

SG/ap