

**SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on **March 16, 2005** in the lobby of the planetarium.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman – President
Deborah A. Gray – 1st Vice President
Susan LeBow – 2nd Vice President
Bertram E. Seides – Treasurer
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann – Secretary
David D’Orazio – Trustee
Michael B. DeLuise – Trustee
Carl Luecke – Trustee
William Macchione – Trustee
Gretchen Oldrin-Mones - Trustee
Daniel Olivieri – Trustee
Dr. Anthony Pecorale – Trustee
Dr. William Rogers – Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo – Executive Director
Ann Marie Pastore – Stenographer

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

DR. GITTELMAN:

Welcome, everyone. This is a regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. There are no guests in attendance from what I can see, so for the first time, we don’t need a list and we don’t need to introduce anyone. May I have a report from the Secretary regarding approval of the minutes?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move that the minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2005 be accepted.

MR. DELUISE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any discussion? If there is no discussion, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Minutes carry unanimously. (Vote: 13/0/0/2 Two vacant positions)**

Public Relations Report, Todd Shapiro and Associates are not here.

MR. MALLAMO:

Leslie is on a leave of absence for a while, and Todd was unable to be here tonight. I know Tony

had a meeting with him this morning. Maybe you could just report on what you discussed.

DR. PECORALE:

Yes, I met Todd this morning to talk about plans for dealing with the sinking of the USS Plymouth, which was the Alva before it was reconditioned and accepted by the United States Navy for offshore reconnaissance. We came up with a number of activities. I spoke with the Education and Exhibits Committee about them. I think they're going to report on some portions of it. I believe he is going to be in contact with you, Lance, and he may have already done so.

MR. MALLAMO:

We have a meeting scheduled for next week.

DR. PECORALE:

I do want the board to know that after discussions that I had with him today, I did make two telephone calls. One of them was to the principal of the Vanderbilt Elementary School. I thought that that would be the appropriate school to contact for working along with Todd on doing something about the Plymouth. The principal is very willing to become involved in the project and to have the students of his school writing letters and things to our Congressmen, our Senators, and to the Department of the Navy. The second telephone call that I made was to John Cochran. I know that John graduated from Annapolis. I also know that he retired from the Navy at a very high rank and that he is friendly with the person who is – what do you call the person who is in charge of the Navy, the civilian person?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Secretary of the Navy?

DR. PECORALE:

I know that he has been in contact with that person because he originally came from Long Island. I wanted to see if John could do some intermediary work with us and with the Department of the Navy. I was hoping that they may be able to get us some of the records of the ship, some of the activities that the ship was involved in, maybe tell us about how it was reconditioned. I was really hoping he could get for us the names of any of the people who served on board the ship during the time that it was torpedoed, so that we might get them to be invited back when and if we get recognition from Congress.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Sounds wonderful. I did speak to Steve Israel about the same subject, and his staff is ready to move forward if we would give him information about the Plymouth, the serial number and whatever we have. He is on the Defense Committee in the House.

DR. PECORALE:

Todd also indicated to me that at one time Mr. Vanderbilt was the commodore of a local yacht club.

MR. MALLAMO:

I know he was of Northport. I think he was a member of the Sewananka Yacht Club.

DR. PECORALE:

Todd thought that perhaps since he was a commodore of that yacht club, that we might be able to do something with them. He thought that that would be a good possible fundraising event.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Sounds good. By the way, he liked to be called commodore until the day he died.

DR. PECORALE:

It's certainly something that we should consider and look into. I expect that you will have more information at the next meeting when Todd Shapiro is able to be here. I don't know if anyone in the room knows, but I understand that the reason why he couldn't be here tonight was because his father had a heart attack.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Yes.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Oh, I didn't know that. When?

MR. MALLAMO:

Several days ago.

DR. PECORALE:

And certainly I know on behalf of the board, we would send our best wishes to his father and hopefully Todd will be able to be with us at the next meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Absolutely. Can we arrange to do that?

MR. MALLAMO:

Certainly.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you for that report. Any comments or questions? Development Committee, Michael.

MR. DELUISE:

We had a Development Committee meeting on March 11. Realizing that fundraising is going to be very important for us, Lance and staff put together a list that's in your packet of about 11 events with a proposed revenue projection of about \$160,000 for the year. We can discuss any of those events, or Lance can give you more detail on them. But it looks like a really good agenda of some very interesting events that I think will help the museum.

In the meeting we also talked about a few other items, and one of the suggestions that we had was the possibility of setting up groups of Friends of the Vanderbilt Museum. That could be done in different categories. People who could help the staff could also help us reach into the community to get more people involved beside the board members to help support the museum in a number of areas. Those people could be involved in fundraising. They could be involved in the educational programs, but it's something that I would like to discuss at some time with the board of the potential of starting a group called the Friends. The Friends could be at different levels. They could be senior levels. They could be school children. I think the idea of even teachers who could be involved as Friends would be very good also.

The other item that we brought up was the possibility of using our Suffolk County Legislators in closer ways to help us promote and to benefit the museum. One of the suggestions was that we would invite them with certain members of the board to small events. It could be six people. It could be eight people at the mansion where we would invite them for a tea or a dinner with the idea of discussing the museum and our needs and the possibilities of obtaining help for the museum through donor support. They could bring with them people who they thought would be supportive of us. They could introduce us to some corporate people. I think that's something that we really need and a level of possible donors who could help move forward. Each one of those we could focus on a special event.

So it might be "A Night at El Morocco" where we would sit down with certain people who we felt would be interested in supporting that in an intimate evening to talk about how they could do that for us. I think that's something that would, again, connect us a little bit more with the people who really help us run this place. I would like to talk about that, too.

That's basically my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

When would you like to talk about that? Would you like to do it at your committee meeting?

MR. DELUISE:

We could talk about that now if you want, or we could do it at committee meetings. I'd like to see more people get involved, members of the board, and the Committee for Development because that really is going to be the future of the museum. If we can't bring in the dollars, it's going to be every month worrying about whether we can pay the electric bill. We really need to get some support.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, Susan.

MS. LEBOW:

You have an item here, the Vanderbilt Women's Tea. Could you expand on that? What is that?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I can do that. This is a new program that we're going to be doing in-house where our guides will portray different women from the Vanderbilt family.

MS. LEBOW:

Is that like the one that you're talking about that's going to be done tomorrow night at the library?

MR. MALLAMO:

No, that's a lecture tomorrow night.

MS. LEBOW:

Oh, that's a lecture.

MR. MALLAMO:

The same people who are giving the lecture will be acting in this new role. This will be

interactive. People will pay. They will come, have tea and scones, and these women will be wearing appropriate costumes and role-playing with them in the roles of Vanderbilt women.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Didn't we do something similar to this a few years ago with professional actors?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, we have done it with professional actors. We're continuing that. We have moved on because of the limitations of the space that we have available. Obviously, you can't do a high tea in this room. We have changed the concept of the high tea with the professional actors because of the increased cost. We have moved that to the planetarium lobby and we do it as a 1930's radio show because we can fit up to 80 people here for a food service event. In the Lancaster Room, we could only fit 30. We were losing money doing it in that room. We decided this was a way we could do it at less cost and probably come out with the same project. I don't know if they're going to sing and dance, but I think we'll get through it in an appropriate manner.

MS. LEBOW:

Well, since we're talking about development, and I read this about the lecture, it comes to mind that there are groups like the Soroptmist International, which are businesswomen, who I think would have a prime target to have a meeting dedicated to coming here, having this kind of lecture, maybe having food with it as a fundraiser. You could interest them in something as fascinating as this history, more on the level of a lecture than just the Living History with the acting out.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's also a show that we could take out on the road without the food. We did that last year with several libraries with the Vanderbilt Cup Show.

MS. LEBOW:

You could do that, too, but I think that's a great fundraiser for these kinds of professional women's organizations because they're always looking for something to fill an agenda, and this would fit in and maybe help us raise awareness of the museum and also raise some money.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have some fabulous subjects right here in the museum. Certainly Alva, Willie's mother, was very active in the women's movement. His sister, Consuelo, was the Duchess of Marlborough. She put out some great books.

MS. LEBOW:

That's why I think we have a critical fundraising thing right there with the women's groups.

MR. DELUISE:

Could I just say, that was the idea of bringing some of the people into these small groups to talk about bigger groups that could buy into some of these projects. We could have a group where we brought, say, some of the women County Legislators to come in and talk about bringing in women's groups or something like this.

MS. LEBOW:

Well, I could help you with the women's groups because I've done a lot of that. Maybe we need to talk so I can give you some leads on that.

MR. DELUISE:

Terrific.

MS. LEBOW:

The other thing is that there is a staff appreciation week that's coming up. Businesses in the area are always looking for something different to do with their staff. If we could put together a program, and it may not be soon enough because I think that's in April, but this is a perfect place. They don't know where to do something different with their staff. We might be a place that would offer some new alternatives and also a way to raise some money on that issue, but we don't have too much time because I think staff appreciation week is early April or mid-April.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I was wondering, do we have a speaker's bureau here?

MR. MALLAMO:

We do have a group of employees that are identified as official speakers. That can include people from the Education Department on a particular subject. We have several guides that do it on particular subjects of Vanderbilt history.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Because that would piggy-back on to -- you're saying about the women's groups, not only women's groups but the rotaries are also always looking for people, all of those kinds of organizations. They'd die for --

MS. LEBOW:

Yes, for a program that will be interesting and memorable.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right, and also historical societies.

MS. FUHRMANN:

We could always send out someone, too, which would also reach out to the community.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, we have offered to either go out or have them come here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The planetarium would be a great place to hold some of those events.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Excuse me?

DR. GITTELMAN:

The planetarium would be a great place to use as a lecture hall.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, we often do that and often can package an event with a site use rental to accomplish that. We do things like that. I also just want to draw your attention to something. Mike mentioned “A Night in El Morocco.” That’s going to be our major fundraiser for the year. A portion of the budget applied to special events is listed on the cover-page, but that doesn’t include the sponsorships and donations that we traditionally get. Those would show up in a different cost center of gifts and donations.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Deborah.

MS. GRAY:

I have a couple of questions. I’m assuming this is an all-inclusive list that Development is going to use to focus our activities for the rest of 2005. None of these occurred yet, right? Did any of these occur?

MR. MALLAMO:

The plays have been occurring.

MS. GRAY:

They’re ongoing.

MR. MALLAMO:

They are ongoing, and I will say that we’re substantially over budget from last year. We have moved the plays from the theater in the education center because of the heat problem that we’re having in that building to the planetarium at a later time in the afternoon. That has substantially boosted the attendance.

DR. PECORALE:

It’s not over budget. It’s over revenue.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, over revenue, that’s what I mean. Yes, our revenues are substantially over what we estimated. Thank you for pointing that out. We have brought in substantially more in revenue than we expected. The Easter Bunny event will take place on March 26. That’s already sold out, so we will meet our objectives with that. We’re beginning the sponsorship brochure right now for “A Night in El Morocco.”

MS. LEBOW:

Could you expand on what that theme is because –

MR. MALLAMO:

“A Night in El Morocco?”

MS. LEBOW:

Well, we got it when it was Gershwin and it was Cole Porter, but what is that?

MR. MALLAMO:

Okay, this is a little different. This is something the staff had in mind for several years, and we have never done it. El Morocco was Vanderbilt’s favorite nightclub in Manhattan. We thought

that this would be – since we now have the tent on the property – that rather than having the Vanderbilt's go to Manhattan's El Morocco, they're bringing El Morocco out to Centerport for the evening. El Morocco was quite an exotic club with the zebra skins hanging all over the place. It was very, very exotic. We feel that we can recreate that. We will get an orchestra to play that night. We'll have some special entertainment that would be appropriate for a 1930's nightclub. That was not unusual during the gold coast era for millionaires to bring out the crew from their favorite club and have a party at their own home. We thought that would be a way to do this, rather than go the route that we have been going with the different composers. We thought it would be a little bit of a different event.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Deborah.

MS. GRAY:

So, I guess what I'm getting at is we're estimating \$160,000 in development for this year.

MR. MALLAMO:

No, this is just the event portion of development. Development is comprised of special events. It's comprised of site use rental and then gifts and donations. Our whole expectation would be under the business plan sheet under development, which would be \$355,000. But the event portion of that is \$160,000.

MS. GRAY:

So what's the remainder, just the weddings?

MR. MALLAMO:

Weddings, rentals and then gifts and donations.

MS. GRAY:

Okay, so I'm just trying to get a grasp on the rentals for the weddings. Do we pretty much have every weekend filled? Are we going to hit the \$355,000?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, we've budgeted \$125,000 for site use rentals. We're not at that point yet, but people are coming in every week giving deposits. So this will be – seven years ago, we were in the thirties and now we're up in the nineties. I think it's achievable now. This will be the first full year where we have the tent up.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What are we renting the tent out at?

MR. MALLAMO:

It's \$7,500 for the tent and the site.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That sounds awfully cheap to me.

MS. GRAY:

So when you subtract the rentals and you subtract the \$160,000, what's left for gifts and donations?

MR. MALLAMO:

I believe it's \$55,000.

MS. GRAY:

And how are we expecting to get those?

MR. DELUISE:

One of the things, too, is to remember that if we do these events and we bring in people to talk about how they can support the museum, we need to do that. That's development. I think that's a realistic number, and I think it's a minimal number. I think we should be able to do more than that. What we're looking for is to go way beyond that. I think that we do need a plan, and I think that's a realistic number that we should be able to reach. Do you agree?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I think so. I think if you look in the budget for "A Night in El Morocco," you'll see listed there sponsorships at \$30,000 and donations at \$1,000. That is traditionally what we do for our fundraiser each year. That is not included in the \$160,000 on the cover page.

MS. GRAY:

But that would be included in this \$55,000?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, that would be appropriated toward that portion. Other events, we're actively looking for sponsors for those events, and I think Mike's idea of establishing the Friends of the Vanderbilt, we can pick off certain events and ask people to sponsor the "South Pacific" play, and to sponsor "Dancing in the Decades," which is a new dance activity that we have not done in previous years. We think that's going to be popular. It will kind of be a party but instead of a live band, we're going to do it with a DJ. The expenses will be less so we can charge less for the ticket. We think that we can get certainly sponsorships of an additional \$20,000. I'm hopeful that we can do that. I think we can. We just have to start now and do it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

When you say \$30,000, that's less than we – we should be able to beat that easily.

MR. MALLAMO:

Steve, I agree, but we did a very conservative budget on all of these. As you can see, even with some of the plays – the St. George plays, we planned on eight plays per show – eight shows. In previous years, we far exceeded that. In some years we haven't done that many, so we tried to be very conservative to get an achievable budget perspective here. I think we have done that clearly. We did it last year, and I don't see any reason why they can't do it this year.

MR. DELUISE:

So you said we should be able to do quite a bit more, but we want to be conservative and be able to deliver these numbers at least.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, I agree.

MR. MALLAMO:

And our expenses that we projected with each of these are based on previous expenses that we had already built into the budget from previous years.

MS. GRAY:

I have one more question. I'm assuming we're going to agree to this list, so what are you expecting from the rest of the Trustees?

MR. DELUISE:

One of the things we would hope is that we have Trustee participation in a number of these events. As a Trustee, I think part of your responsibility being on the board is to show your personal support. You might want to pick out as many of these events as you think you can personally with your guest go to. I think that would be very helpful for us. I do still think it's very important for the Trustees to look at when we do these smaller events to try to get other people interested to be supportive and involved in that, too. If we have a dinner or a tea, with some of the Legislators or some of the corporate possible sponsors, I think it would be very good to get involved. If you have a suggestion, whether it's women's groups or business groups or a certain corporation, you say, "Gee, I think they would be people who could support the museum," then you become part of the development team. I think that will really help us. If we're really going to take this to the next step, we have to do that.

We could really use some help in helping us put together the Friends Groups because the Friends Groups could be potentially the Lincoln Center, the museums in the city, the museums around the country. Those Friends Groups are really the future. They're the people who get nurtured into becoming future Trustees. They open the door to other areas for us. I think that's how the board members can really help us with this.

MR. LUECKE:

What would differentiate a Friend from a Member?

MR. DELUISE:

Members come and they visit. It's nice if they want to get involved. A Friend could be if we have the women's tea, a volunteer to help take tickets, a volunteer to help put the program together, help clean up the room, those kinds of things. Also, if we were looking at, for instance, say we started a Friends Group of teachers, we could bring some of those teachers in, train them a little bit about the museum, and they become experts that take our word back into the school districts. They become part of our family. We can recognize them in events, include them, and invite them to special things. Those people will become active supporters. Word of mouth is important for them, but they can also open the door to legislative support and the community. Remember, we serve the community. The more we let people know what we're doing, the more those people are going to support us. I think the Friends become a potential very important part of what we're doing.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, Deborah.

MS. GRAY:

I think your idea about getting the Trustees involved is important. I can only speak for myself, but it's hard to figure out which things to be involved in unless we're going to know way in advance when the date is because everybody's calendars are packed and then what sorts of things – I mean, just like Susan is asking, many of us don't really know what these things entail in terms of what kind of project it is at the museum. The more we know about the event, the easier it's going to be for us to choose one or two of them to participate in. The sooner you tell us, the more likely you'll get participation because people can arrange that weekend or the week

before or the month before.

MR. DELUISE:

Lance has some of the dates. Lance, do you think by the next meeting we could have the dates?

MR. MALLAMO:

I think if you looked in the packet, Deborah, most of these will have a date at the title. The Easter Bunny event is March 26. The Arena Players where it just says the year, that's ongoing throughout the year. "Dancing Through the Decades" will be the June 18 date.

MS. GRAY:

But, Lance, what could we have done for the Easter Bunny hunt?

MR. MALLAMO:

For the Easter Bunny hunt I don't really think you could have done anything. I can tell you right now where we need your help and where we don't.

MS. GRAY:

Then maybe that's what you should do; just give us a list of where you need our help and where you don't. Then we should pick on the things where you need help because you're not going to need our help on the wine tasting, either. That's the Rotary Club.

MR. MALLAMO:

No, where we're going to need help is the "Dancing Through the Decades," "A Night in El Morocco," and the "Young Executive Party." We didn't talk about that, Mike. Maybe you want to talk about that a little bit because that's a new concept. We could use a lot of help developing that and flushing that out.

MR. DELUISE:

And as much as we want your support on everything, those three events, if you can even come, buy a ticket or two, it would really help. Try to bring somebody else or try to get somebody else to come and fill up the room, those are all potential people who can help us. The "Young Executive Party," and I think it was Dave's idea, was to bring in a young group of executives. Dave, do you want to talk about it?

MR. D'ORAZIO:

Sure. The concept is to broaden people's awareness of what we're doing here, so we want to target different groups, different demographics. Obviously, the young executives' group would be a great demographic for us to target because these are people that generally have money, want to have a good time, come in, they come here and stop here in the summer. They're maybe in their mid to late thirties or forties. Their mind is somewhere else, but if we can target them, get them to a party here, it's guaranteed that they will be coming back because they all have families with kids.

MS. LEBOW:

Is there a target date for that?

MR. MALLAMO:

September.

MS. LEBOW:

September?

MS. FUHRMANN:

September -- no exact date?

MR. MALLAMO:

No, we didn't establish an exact date for that yet, but we put it in that month. We have been trying to get one big thing a month during that period.

MS. LEBOW:

And the date for "El Morocco" is when?

MR. MALLAMO:

The women's tea, we're talking a few dates. We have not nailed down the date for that yet. That will probably be in the fall.

MS. LEBOW:

What about "El Morocco?"

MR. MALLAMO:

"El Morocco" is July 29.

MR. LUECKE:

Does the wine tasting take place every year, or is this our own wine tasting?

MR. MALLAMO:

No, this is the one that takes place each year. That would be August 11.

MS. LEBOW:

What's August 11?

MR. MALLAMO:

That's the Rotary wine tasting. The revenue from that event, only half of that revenue is in this budget. The other half of \$7,500 would be in the site use cost center. That full amount isn't showing up here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

There are a few areas -- I was at your meeting, but I didn't stay for the whole meeting -- but there are a few areas that I see missing, and maybe you have them someplace else. One was the continued celebration of the Motor Parkway, which we could have something related to that. The other one is that we have the dinosaur exhibit up. Long Island is a hotbed of dinosaur scientists. If you wanted to, I think I could bring in some world-renowned scientists, if we can make an event around that. It could be a kids' event. For example, David Kraus is out at Stony Brook. I'm on the board at Stony Brook, and David Kraus is the past President of the Society of Paleontology and Chair of Anatomy at the hospital. David would probably come here, if you

wanted him to. Maybe you could make an event around him. He's one of the world's leading dinosaur scientists, period. If you want to do something with it, we could.

MR. MALLAMO:

Just to address that, Steve, that's a fabulous idea. We'd have to talk whether we want to do that as a special event or as an event developed within the Educational Program. We tried to keep it as an achievable program because of the limited staff we have available in this department to supervise special events. We only have one full time person, and she's supplemented by teenage kids that are part-timers. So this is quite a handful.

The reason we haven't added the Vanderbilt Cup, we're going to continue the Vanderbilt Cup celebration this year. We're going to do the 1905 race exhibit. We're trying to get the Vanderbilt Cup here later in the year. October 2 we have a major car show, the same show that we had last October. They're all coming back. That's not showing up in here because that revenue goes to admissions. We haven't planned on redoing the play because it was a great historic thing to do, but financially it really wasn't that successful. I'm not sorry we did it. I'm glad we did it, but we really didn't make any money redoing the Broadway show. Even our producer told us last year that there was a reason it only ran one year on Broadway and we haven't seen the revival. It was a great show, but you don't see Broadway bringing her back today. I think there was a limited fundraising appeal or event appeal with the Vanderbilt Cup.

We're trying to, with our financial situation in mind, come up with activities that we think are really going to help us maintain our revenue show this year.

MR. DELUISE:

I would think at some time with the dinosaurs and with the expert, there might be something to tie in the teachers. That might be an opening that we could open ourselves up to and bring educators here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If you want to tie something to dinosaurs, I could get you the people.

MR. DELUISE:

Good, we can talk about that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any other questions or comments?

MR. DELUISE:

That ends my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Great report. Thank you very much.

MR. D'ORAZIO:

When is the next committee meeting on that? Did we set a date on that?

MR. DELUISE:

No, we haven't set a date on that yet.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Education and Exhibits, Gretchen.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

The Education and Exhibits Committee met today. At that meeting, Florence Ogg gave me packets to hand out to everybody. You should have one in your folder. Some of the things that I'm going to mention are further explained in the packet.

Florence is working on a 1936 Living History Program. She is working with researchers on an article that will come out in the June issue of *Soundings*, which is a Connecticut magazine on the ship model room's exhibit.

There is going to be a summer issue of *Elements*, which will have a story on waterfront buildings and include our boathouse and seaplane hangar.

She is also working on an article in our March newsletter of the Long Island Library Resources Council on a lecture of the Vanderbilt Cup Races presented by Harold Kroplick. One of the events is that tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. two of our guides will be presenting a lecture on the Vanderbilt women at the Shelter Rock Public Library. This is part of the series of the program on Women's History Month.

Finally, the last thing in your packet is something that Florence will be presenting next month. It's a request to accession five enameled plates once attached to autos allowing them entrance and usage to the Long Island Motor Parkway. They date from 1924 to 1937. We have the material in our archives that shows that one of the plates belonged to E.F. Hutton.

At the meeting, Beth reported that the numbers for February were very good. Those statistics have been given to the stenographer to be attached to the minutes.

In spite of the fact that the weather was difficult, the February break program was extremely successful. It was enjoyed by the students. There was a lot of positive feedback, and parents gave a lot of positive feedback.

I have some pictures to pass around of happy students having a good time at the February program. The theme of the program was "The Americas." It was so successful that they are exploring expanding the program into a full time program.

Beth is also doing research for the summer. The theme for the program then is "Sail Away with Mr. Vanderbilt."

Stephanie had an equally positive experience. She got this wonderful letter from William Floyd School District, and I will pass this around. It's in reply to our loan of a dinosaur exhibit. The students there – well, just to quote from the letter – "were so excited about our dino-mite day of learning, some of them really do look like they're going to burst when they come into our library and find out about the exhibit." I will let you read the rest of it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can you re-read that when Bill comes back?

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

By then the letter will be around to him. Tony mentioned a lot of what was brought up in regard to commemorating the 75th anniversary of the launching of the Alva. He mentioned that he has been in contact with the principal of the Vanderbilt Elementary School, which is in Half Hollow Hills, and how there is an idea in the works that these elementary school students would be writing to someone like the Secretary of the Navy or Congressmen or someone involved in the U.S. Navy who could provide a certificate of a citation that would honor this event and bring further recognition to the Alva, which became the Plymouth.

Phil brought back the History of Rocketry exhibit. It had to be returned to the Goddard, but we have two very exquisite photographs that we have gotten from the Space Telescope Science Institute. We are one of only two or three institutes in the entire state that has been awarded these photos or the use of these photos. These photos will be unveiled here April 25 in honor of the Hubble's 15th anniversary. The photographs are from the Hubble. It's the M51. We have a mystery picture, which is a mystery to us as to what it is. They will come in rolled form so somehow we will need the funds to mount them.

Finally, Lorraine talked about how she will be teaching a course at BOCES doing a workshop in order to prepare the teachers for the Jason Project. The Jason Project for next September will be Mars.

She also talked about how there is a possibility that we'll have a breakfast for educators. This will be a great opportunity to invite the Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Staff Development in the district and to promote our fine educational programs.

Those of you interested in coming to the next Education Meeting, it's going to be April 14th at three o'clock. That's a Thursday. That's the end of my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Comments or questions about that report? Thank you very much. Finance Committee, Bert.

MR. SEIDES:

We don't have a report for this evening. However, I would like to say that as Treasurer to the Board I know for myself I'm on a huge learning curve. We have had two meetings, two consecutive Fridays, 10:30 in the morning. My signature does appear on checks now, and our bookkeeper has taken the time to share with me some information about where the checks are going, so that I can learn about the delegation of funds.

As far as the report goes, we have reviewed the report, and we are consolidating into development, special events, site use and fundraising. At the bottom of the report will appear donated revenues, grants received and in-kind donations. Those three items will appear at the bottom of the report for as long as we feel it's necessary, and I think it looks pretty terrific for everyone to see those three items as to where funds are coming from.

We also discussed the issue of the audit with Barry Seidel. I might defer to Steve a little bit. However, I just would like to say that things look pretty positive. That issue seems to be resolving itself, hopefully positively.

All of you are welcome to any of the Treasurer's meetings. They generally are, like I said, Fridays the week before the board meeting at 10:30, unless we choose to change that to make it more comfortable so more of you can attend.

DR. GITTLEMAN:

But you're still holding them at 10:30.

MR. SEIDES:

They will be at 10:30. That's the end of my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Questions or comments? Thank you for that report. Personnel Committee, Deborah Gray.

MS. GRAY:

We had our meeting on March 3. Marjorie, Carl, Lance, Bridget, our new Human Resource person, and myself attended. Lance provided us with an update on what was going on with employees and hiring, and we were introduced to Bridget, who seems like an excellent choice and an asset to the museum.

We also talked to Lance about our March staff performance evaluations. If you read the personnel manual, you will see each March the Board of Trustees of the Museum should be evaluating the Executive Director and the Supervisors. Department Heads conduct formal written performance reviews of the employees. Lance informed us that the evaluations are going out. It includes a self-evaluation as well, and communication back and forth between the employee and his or her supervisor.

As it relates to Lance's evaluation, we had been asked at the last board meeting to review the materials from the Handbook for Museum Trustees, the criteria for evaluating the CEO. We spent a considerable amount of time reviewing it. I think we had a couple of issues that we identified. One was that we thought in general, the criteria was vague, not specific to this particular museum, and that Lance wasn't party to its development. Therefore, it may be difficult for us as a collective to evaluate him against it. We weren't entirely comfortable with all the categories. We also felt that the scale that was used was too open to personal judgment and not actually evaluating what Lance's performance is because they used terms like "strongly agree," "agree somewhat," "disagree somewhat," and "disagree strongly."

Our recommendation, which was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting, was that this year the evaluation should be done by Steve of Lance, and he's free to use this form or any form he wants, and then report back to us as to what, if anything, he feels needs adjusting or some consideration.

The Personnel Committee, with some help from some other board members who have indicated an interest, should develop a new evaluation tool for this year, which would be more focused on our organization, the future of the organization, goals and objectives that we perceive that are important for this year, and that it should be oriented around finance, administrative issues, personnel, management, technical programs and project completion or development, interaction with the board, the County and other parties that are members or party to the museum, and his own personal development, which we have not spent any time talking about what Lance does to benefit his own education as it relates to the museum. That was what we had discussed as it relates to the CEO performance.

We also reviewed policy and procedures. There were two that we reviewed. One is in your handout. Lance, I'm going to turn that one over to you, which has to do with severe weather. The committee agreed to move this forward for the board's approval, but I think Lance should

explain what the issues are.

MR. MALLAMO:

Currently, in our Personnel Manual, and this policy was in place when I got here and we have continued it to date, is that the museum's severe weather schedule follows that of the Harbor Fields School District. If the Harbor Field's School District is closed, we are closed. The staff should look at the news and know that we will be closed for that day.

Over the past several years, we have had a number of problems with this policy in that some employees don't get the information properly. There have been times when Harbor Field's has been closed on a day of bad weather, such as last week. Remember we had a big snowstorm, and some schools were closed, including Harbor Fields. Actually, we found out later that they were closed because the oil burner in one of their schools failed, and they didn't have heat. The roads were okay in this area, but they were closed; therefore, we were closed.

It's also become a problem with employees because our grounds crew must report and clear the snow, but other employees stay home. The grounds crew expects to be paid overtime for working what was a regularly scheduled workday. We have had some grounds crew refuse to come in on that day because other people have the day off and said, "I'm not coming in." We have actually had one person that was terminated because this became a bigger problem. What we have proposed here really only affects full-time staff. What we propose to do with this new policy is that even when the museum is closed, staff should report to work. If they can't report to work, and I think we fully understand if there are really emergency weather conditions and in your own judgment you don't think you can make it to work that day, that you take that time off. It can either come off your vacation or compensatory time. Most people have extra time to do that. I think in fairness, this was my recommendation because although legal, and I did check with the Labor Department regarding the issue of when some employees have to work and others don't, they said, well, that's life. In effect, I think it would soothe some of the personnel issues that we have around the museum revolving to this issue. It would require a change in the personnel manual because currently our manual states that we're closed when Harbor Fields is closed.

MR. D'ORAZIO:

The museum is closed to the public, and this might be a silly question, but I'm not that familiar with full-time employees here, what is the reason for having full-time employees come to work?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, our primary reason for being closed would be that it might not be that we were able to get all areas shoveled because currently when we're open to the public, all the buildings are open, the marine museum, the mansion and the gardens. So we have to have everything cleared of snow and ice. When you get slippery conditions, and we can't guarantee that, there certainly would be times where we would be closed. We usually put that on our machine. We will have a posting at the main gate, and we may continue to do that. There may be times when we're closed to the public, like if we lose the electricity or something like that. That's not to say that full-time employees that we have aren't able to get to their offices and work on routine work.

MR. D'ORAZIO:

So there is work for them to do.

MR. MALLAMO:

Oh, certainly, there is work for them to do.

MR. D’ORAZIO:

Even if the museum is closed.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right.

MR. MACCHIONE:

Lance, prior to this, there was a problem with some buildings and grounds people on what you basically said. Has that been alleviated? Has that problem been solved? This goes into effect, say, from this day forward.

MR. MALLAMO:

Regarding this issue?

MR. MACCHIONE:

Yes.

MR. MALLAMO:

This would solve the problem. What has been made clear is that when it snows, you must report to work, and if you don’t you’ll be subject to disciplinary proceedings. But there are hard feelings that there is no additional recompense, that other people get the day off, and I understand that.

MR. MACCHIONE:

So like about a month and a half ago, we had a heavy snow. Those people that stayed home had to take their own personal time then.

MR. MALLAMO:

No, they didn’t have to take their own time because they got the day off.

MR. MACCHIONE:

So then you compensated the buildings and grounds crew appropriately for the time that was spent clearing?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, I’ll tell you how we handled that, and I’ll tell you why we handled it a certain way. We had an incident about a month ago. It was a sudden storm that had occurred on a weekend. We purposely didn’t clear everything until Monday because we were closed on Monday anyway, Sunday we were closed. The storm stopped about two o’clock in the afternoon. Normally if we were open the next day, I would have made the crew come in and clear the facilities. Since we knew we weren’t going to be open, we were closed to the public and we had cancelled the school groups on Friday, we said we can leave it until Monday, which was a regular work day. It ended up that we were closed on the Monday. Not all employees got that message. One employee was in Connecticut. She called the guards. The guards got it mixed up and said, “I think we’re open.” Some employees came to work. About five came to work and 15 stayed home. Now I had everybody mad, the five who came to work, because they didn’t get the day off. The grounds crew was mad that they didn’t get the day off.

What we said for that day is, those people that reported to work that day could take another day off at some other point during the year. We gave them the comp hours for doing that. I made that decision. That's really not our policy. It was just to equalize the situation for those people who mistakenly came to work. I think this is a little severe, but I think in all fairness, it's the way to go. Those people that don't want to come in or can't come in, we will certainly understand if they take the day off. We'll just ask them to take their time.

MS. LEBOW:

I don't think it's as severe as you think. I know in my office and in many offices that I know, if the office is open, and they can't come in, they can take a personal day. At least you're not creating an obligation for some people in some category that doesn't apply to others. They all have to be here, unless it's such a terrible blizzard that you say nobody should come in. We are closing the facility, and we don't expect anyone to come in. How do they get to you to find out that that's the case?

MR. MALLAMO:

Then I would contact people directly. If we had a blizzard, I wouldn't even ask the grounds crew to come in because that's nonsensical to have them risk their safety to come up here to clear the roads that are going to have to be cleared again anyway.

MS. LEBOW:

Exactly.

MR. MALLAMO:

So, yes, we have done that.

MS. LEBOW:

And then that's uniform across the board for every employee.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right, and if a blizzard occurred on a Saturday and they had to come in to clear it, and it's an addition to their 35-hour work week, they will be paid overtime to do that. But the situation that we have had is that this is occurring during the 35-hour work week. There is no additional overtime hours being worked. Yet, with that one particular day, the grounds crew felt that they should get overtime. In fact, they all filled out their time sheets that they should get overtime. I said, "You know, you didn't work overtime. You worked within your 35 hour week."

MS. LEBOW:

But I think you resolved the problem with this recommendation. I think it will resolve the problem. Everyone will be treated equally. That's really what people look for.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right.

DR. PECORALE:

The difference is that the grounds crew has to come in. If they don't come in, they will be disciplined. Whereas the clerical – the other staff can take the day off, and they can take it as part of their time. The grounds crew doesn't have that option. The grounds crew is told that

they must report.

MS. LEBOW:

But explain this part to me. They understand that the nature of their work is they have to be here for a certain thing, but I don't think they will feel it's as unfair if someone who decides not to come in loses a day of vacation, sick time, or personal time.

DR. PECORALE:

I'm not disagreeing with it because that's the standard that we use. Everything that's in here is what we use in the schools. The point I'm getting at is that you're still going to get individuals who will feel that they are being treated unfairly because in the case of the grounds crew, they have to come in, whereas somebody who is not in the grounds crew has the option to take either compensatory time or a vacation day. In the case of the grounds crewmen, you're saying you must come in because it's absolutely necessary for you to be here in order to take care of the facility. I understand where you're coming from. I just don't think you're ever going to have it where everybody is going to think that they are treated fairly. The grounds crew is still going to believe that they are not being treated fairly, that they don't have that option. They don't have the option of staying home and taking a vacation day.

MR. MALLAMO:

Tony, I have explained that to them after a lengthy discussion with the New York State Department of Labor on this very subject and said the nature of your job is that this will apply to you, whereas it doesn't apply to other members of the staff. I think they accept and understand that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's a situation where in --

MS. LEBOW:

Under this circumstance, the part-timers are going to be paid even if they don't come in for two hours?

MR. MALLAMO:

Right now we pay them two hours, and I think the thought was if you scheduled your life expecting to come to work that day, and we call you up and say, "Don't come in because we're closing," we pay two hours. They may be scheduled to work six hours, but we only pay two.

MS. LEBOW:

But if you call them not to come in, you're calling your full-time staff not to come in also, right?

MR. MALLAMO:

No, because part-timers would only be to serve the public opening of the museum. Full-timers have work to do, whether the public is here or not. The part-time staff that day would be tour guides, greeters to man the buildings, obviously security isn't included in this at all. Security are part-time employees. They work regardless.

DR. PECORALE:

But that was in the old policy about being paid for the two hours.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, that is not a change.

DR. PECORALE:

That's exactly what the old policy said.

MR. MALLAMO:

That's right.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, go ahead.

MS. GRAY:

Are we ready to move on? The second item that the committee talked about was in the personnel manual on page 17, there is conduct policies. There are a number of different issues in the conduct policies, ethical, business conduct, sexual harassment, the use of drugs and narcotics. We had a discussion that we would like the new personnel person with Lance to develop a form so that when there are complaints or there are situations that any information that is taken is put in writing, so that it's clear that the person that either is complaining or the person that is being accused of something can see what's been reported. Everything will remain confidential, but we'll have a record so that there aren't any misunderstandings or any changes in stories. I think Bridget is going to work on that with Lance. At some point, we'll be bringing that form forward.

For this evening the only actual change is the one that Lance spoke to regarding the severe weather and the recommendation for Steve to do Lance's evaluation.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Questions or comments?

MS. LEBOW:

Do you need a motion for this policy?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

MS. LEBOW:

So moved.

MR. MACCHIONE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It carries unanimously. (Vote: 13/0/0/2 Two vacant positions)**

DR. PECORALE:

I just want to be sure that we were voting to accept the report as presented.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, the changes as recommended. Anything else?

MS. GRAY:

No.

DR. GITTELMAN:

On your recommendation that I do Lance's review, I'm very uncomfortable with that prospect. I want to bring that up for discussion. As I understand, there is the logic behind it. Any review that we do now in any form, for example, taking the form in the book, which was my idea, would be asserting, if you will, an evaluation that Lance wasn't exposed to a year ago. Deborah, do you want to explain it? What is the logic behind this?

MS. GRAY:

I think that usually when you evaluate a CEO of any organization, they know what their goals and objectives are and what they're expected to have achieved. Since we have never used that format, at least to my knowledge we have never used that format, I don't know if we did an evaluation of Lance last year.

DR. GITTELMAN:

No.

MS. GRAY:

While this might be a nice format for us to consider with some changes because it's not specific to us, it doesn't talk about all your work with the County, and that wasn't really fair. We also are looking around the board at a lot of new members that really don't even maybe know what the goals and objectives are yet of the museum, so how would they be able to evaluate Lance. I think that our focus was more on not what he did last year and last year's evaluation, but it should be more on what we're doing this year and this year's work and spend our time and energy and maybe some education and some interviews with the board members to do a new evaluation tool and let you worry about how well Lance performed last year, since you're the one who spent the most time with him. We should do something that's more open and inclusive of all the Trustees rather than just the form. I don't think there's anything wrong with you using that form because you can interpret which things are connected to this museum and which are not, which many of us may not be able to do because we're not as close to what goes on here on a day-to-day basis. You may want to include other people that you feel understand that better.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay. Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

I think that you raise a good point, that you doing it by yourself probably would not be the best way. I would make the suggestion that you should possibly ask three or four board members to give you some input or any number of board members to give you some input. Then you take the input under consideration for putting it together.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I like that better. That would be fine with me. I really don't want to unilaterally evaluate Lance.

DR. PECORALE:

I know Marge knows this, but we did make up an evaluation form –

MS. FUHRMANN:

Yes, we did.

DR. PECORALE:

The Personnel Committee did back about four or five years ago.

MS. FUHRMANN:

At least.

DR. PECORALE:

I know that I have a copy of it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I do, too.

DR. PECORALE:

I would be happy to give you some of my thoughts personally, and you can use them or not use them at your discretion.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I would be pleased to have that. As I recall, we did have an evaluation form, and I remember that we used it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

We did.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We used it on Alison Sanchez in her last year.

MR. LUECKE:

That worked out well.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I think the form did work out well. I think it was a good evaluation tool. Tony, do you agree with me?

DR. PECORALE:

That Personnel Committee put a lot of time into developing that form.

MS. FUHRMANN:

We put in a lot of time and effort into it, and we did come up with a good evaluation tool.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Tony, if you would be kind enough to bring that form to light, I would like to see it. It might still fit. It certainly was made for this institution. It certainly might help the Personnel Committee. They can at least see what the prior group put together. It might guide us in doing this. Bill wanted to make a comment.

DR. ROGERS:

I think the evaluation should be done by committee or a special committee appointed by the

Board or by the President for the specific purpose of evaluating the CEO.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'm sure you recall how we evaluated Alison, the previous Director, was with that form. It was passed out to Trustees, all Trustees. Those who chose to use the form and evaluate Alison completed the form, then turned them in to Bob LaBua, who then compiled a consensus based on the responses received from the Trustees, and that was given to you as the joint evaluation from the Trustees of her work as Director. As I recall, that was what was done.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Let's see the form, and we'll do something about this between now and the next meeting. I would like to see the form and then if it's okay – I mean, I'm concerned about the feelings of the new Trustees, to some extent. I don't want you to feel left out, but the point is well taken that you may not know Lance that well yet. Certainly he's been on good behavior giving you tours, but that may not be the entire basis that you wish to evaluate him on. Let's get the questionnaire, let me see it, I'll circulate it, and we'll come up with something. It will be an informal evaluation that will give us breathing room until the Personnel Committee can improve upon it, if that's okay with you, Deborah.

MS. GRAY:

That's excellent.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Was there anything else?

MS. GRAY:

No.

MR. LUECKE:

I just want to make sure that the report that you're doing is an entirely different type of report than what we talked about in committee. We talked about in committee a goal-oriented report. Did someone achieve their goals, etc. Whatever report we had before, I really don't remember it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You were there.

MR. LUECKE:

I'm sure I was there. It's pretty subjective, though. I don't know if you said that this was your goal to raise so much money this year.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Let's see what the form said. No, we can't do a goal oriented – we could do a goal-oriented analysis. Certainly I have worked with Lance on many goals that have been discussed, and I think that's why it has been given to me. I would be more than glad to comment on how I feel he pursues his goals.

MR. LUECKE:

I'm confident that you would do that properly.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm not sure I'll do it properly, but I'll work on it. Is there anything else about that? Okay, Director's Report.

MR. MALLAMO:

As many of you know, we had an unfortunate incident the week before last. A small electrical fire occurred in the Goto projector during a school performance. We had to evacuate the building, take the projector apart, and then assess the damage and find a methodology to repair it. I will say that I spent a sleepless night worried about that, but I really have to commend the staff here at the planetarium for getting to the root of the problem very quickly. You've seen the projector tonight. You have an opening about that big three inches across to look in and see what the damage is, and then you have to take a photograph in that hole to e-mail to a repair service. It was involved. I really was fearful that we were going to have a total meltdown. The incident occurred on a Tuesday. By Friday morning, it was fully repaired and up and running and actually works better than it ever has. That projector with all its problems keeps on chugging. We were thrilled with that. Although we did have to cancel the school classes booked that week, we were able to rebook each and every class, so it really did not have a financial impact on us.

Our laser shows, as you witnessed tonight, a sample of them began last weekend. That was our first full weekend with the new system in. We had a pretty good weekend attendance-wise. People seem to enjoy them. We are now advertising to increase the attendance on that, and we do see an effect with the advertising because we're getting phone calls about it.

Our admissions in February were quite good in spite of the snow. Even the snow during the President's break exceeded our membership quota by more than double. We estimated about two thousand in membership and we brought in over five thousand in that month. We're selling a record number of memberships this year. We have somebody on staff each weekend up at the booth selling those.

We also have two nice sponsorships to report for this year that have already come in. One is an in-kind donation from Yellow Book. We put that deal together with what we advertised in Yellow Book with a page and a space on the front cover that says an in-kind value of \$40,140. We're going to be reporting to you each month what our in-kind donations are because they really do make a big contribution to the museum in providing services or goods that we would otherwise have to provide in a dollar amount.

We're also going to be participating in Bank of America's Museums on Us Program in May 2005. We had participated in this several years ago when Bank of America was Fleet Bank and then they had gone to other museums, but I'm happy to report that we're back in that program this year. Fleet will be making a contribution of \$7,500 for that. We're off to a good start with sponsorships already. That's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Questions? If there are no questions, thank you for that report. From my side, before I report, there are a couple of other reports. Susan, we discussed the idea of a retreat. Could you give us an overview of where that stands?

MS. LEBOW:

Well, the suggestion was that there are many new Trustees, and there are those of us who have served who might benefit from having someone come in to give us some training on Trusteeships and what we can do for the museum. Lance found a website, and we have to get in touch with the organization to see if they have a training person who could come here to give us a program.

The best site, Lance, was what?

MR. MALLAMO:

Boardsource.org was a website of non-profit – they deal with non-profit board issues. They do workshops, and they do retreats on site or off site. What we were thinking is, say, a one-day retreat possibly Saturday here at the museum.

MS. LEBOW:

Breakfast and lunch.

MR. MALLAMO:

We could have some sessions and then maybe go on a short tour, experience the museum as the public experiences it on a particular day.

MS. LEBOW:

It would also give you an opportunity, because I've been on a retreat for college Trustees, and it gives you an opportunity to ask questions that may be troubling you or get information that you might want from a source other than the people that you deal with at your board meetings all the time. We thought it would be very instructive and helpful not only to the new Trustees but to all of us.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

When are you planning to do this? Do you have an idea? I'm not trying to hold you to a date, just a time period.

MS. LEBOW:

Well, I would think to give us a little time it would have to be May or June, I would think.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you.

MS. LEBOW:

Is that bad for you?

DR. PECORALE:

Saturdays in May and June are deadly.

MS. LEBOW:

Do you mean golf?

DR. PECORALE:

No, I have a daughter being married June 4, that's a Saturday. I'm tied up for all the rest of the Saturdays in June and Sundays for weekend college.

MS. LEBOW:

Well, what about May or we may have to go into –

DR. GITTELMAN:

May may be a push for you.

MS. LEBOW:

Yes, to get this person signed up and to get the whole program lined up. We'll come with some possible dates, and since the objective is to be inclusive, we'll have to get a date that everybody feels comfortable with.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do you want to discuss what everybody's preference is? Do you want to have it on a weekend day?

MS. LEBOW:

Well, there are many of us who really would find it difficult to give up a full workday. I don't know what the consensus is. You might as well ask the Board and see how everybody feels about it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

In essence, I'm kind of making it clear why you've chosen that. The sentiment was that it would have to be on a weekend day because we can't take off on a workday, most of us. Unless somebody disagrees with that, that's why we're choosing a weekend day. It will be difficult. I'm not so sure everybody is anxious to give up a sunny day in May or June or July, but we may have to.

MS. LEBOW:

The problem is if you pick a workday, many of us – some of us at least don't know this far in advance what we will have to commit to on a workday. That's why a weekend might be better.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm not saying I disagree with a Saturday, but you're talking about four or five hours on a Saturday. You can just as easily do that on a weekday starting at three and going through dinner. I think there are other options if people knew far enough in advance what they were committing to. We're not talking about eight hours. We're talking about four to five hours.

MS. LEBOW:

Is there a preference?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Now is the time to speak up.

MS. LEBOW:

Is there a preference among the people on the Board?

MR. LUECKE:

I would prefer not the weekend.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I would prefer not a weekend, particularly if you're talking May and June.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Maybe we could do this by a hand vote, a straw vote. Weekend, just raise your hand, if you prefer a weekend. **(Vote: 4/9/0/2 In favor: Mr. Seides, Ms. LeBow, Mr. Olivieri & Mr. DeLuise. Two vacant positions)**

Okay, who prefers a weekday?

MR. MACCHIONE:

Like a late afternoon, evening?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Let's say three o'clock until we drop.

MS. LEBOW:

This is subject, however, to the person that we have to bring in being willing to do it in that kind of time frame.

MR. LUECKE:

Being willing to do it during the week?

MS. LEBOW:

Late afternoon well into the evening. That may not be something that they are willing to do, and then we'll have to report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It seemed to me it was about eight for a weekday and four for a weekend.

MS. LEBOW:

Yes, I think there was an overwhelming sentiment preferring a weekday. We can explore that, but remember that this person is going to come here and I don't know what their day, so to speak, would consist of, so we'll have to see.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Now I'm going to bring up another issue in reference to this. Is venue critical to anybody? I mean, does it matter to you if it's Normandy Manor? Would the museum be okay?

MR. SEIDES:

Absolutely.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Does anybody have a problem with the museum?

MS. LEBOW:

The recommendation for the museum is to try to keep our costs down because if we have to rent the venue, than that's another expenditure that is not necessary.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Does anybody have any problem with Normandy Manor, for example?

MS. LEBOW:

If it can accommodate what we have to do here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I think if we're going to do it at Normandy Manor, I think doing it later in the day is better in that there will be fewer employees around to hear. Not to insinuate that they would listen, but if we do it late afternoon/evening, they will have gone home. It will encourage a freer discussion among the Trustees if they don't think their employees are upstairs working.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, I hope this helps you in planning it and that you now know that –

MS. LEBOW:

I know the preferences. Now when we get to find the person who would fit the bill, we'll have to report back and tell you if all of these preferences can be accommodated.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Most of the retreats I have gone on have started late in the afternoon and gone to around midnight because of workday schedules of people. They wanted them to start later, and they have been with facilitators.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We'll hone that down. We'll shape that. How are the lions doing, by the way?

MR. OLIVIERI:

Well, the lions, it's interesting, we now know a couple of things. One of the issues that was brought up last time was, should we go public. My big recommendation –

DR. GITTELMAN:

By the way, you are public at the moment.

MR. OLIVIERI:

They were talking about running ads or newspaper stories. I think the quieter we do this now, the better. I found the address of the woman in Corning, New York. I've spoken to the attorney's office who did the closing with them. It's very interesting that it was so notorious in that office that the secretary knew everything about the lions from six years ago.

I also discovered through some conversations with Lance that these lions are quite valuable. They are probably about \$50,000 each.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

MR. OLIVIERI:

And they were also taken away with cranes in the middle of the night. The information that I want to really nail down is with the Town of Huntington. They issued some violations but it appears that the only thing the town could actually do is fine these people. Now we're saying the statute of limitations has come and gone on that. I changed my thinking because if it wasn't anything by force of law to compel them to return these lions and there's nothing criminal here, we're going to have to enter into negotiations and think about purchasing them back somehow. I have to nail that down.

I need to get the files from this other attorney. He has been kind of cooperative, but he has to go down and search his files and get his client's permission to actually turn them over to me. Once I get that, then we have to make a decision. Do we just have somebody like me take a quick drive up to Corning for the day and say, "Hello, how are you?" Or do we send somebody out there with a camera to see where these lions are? If they are moved with cranes, I can't envision them being in somebody's basement.

DR. GITTELMAN:

They could have been put in a basement. They are about five or six feet tall.

MR. OLIVIERI:

It's the weight. I'm talking about between somebody taking some pictures on that piece of property to find out what's there and what's not there and find out what goes on with the town. If we have a hook in with something criminal, then that becomes very easy. If we don't, we have to see what the town says and what they're willing to do to help us if they can. If not, then we're just going to have to enter into negotiations and come up with a budget and figure out what we can spend to purchase them.

DR. ROGERS:

Do we know where they are?

MR. OLIVIERI:

Corning.

MS. GRAY:

Did you actually see the lions?

MR. OLIVIERI:

I did not see the actual lions.

MS. GRAY:

So we don't know if they actually still have them. They could have been sold already.

MR. OLIVIERI:

Well, that's another thing. That's a tough item to sell, especially for that kind of money. Lance

had told me that there is a dealer that kind of specializes in this type of item. It's been very quiet on the market over the years, but we can only find out.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

When were they taken?

MR. OLIVIERI:

Six years ago.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, it was.

DR. PECORALE:

Was it six years ago?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, believe it or not.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I can't believe it was six years?

DR. ROGERS:

Is it six years? It's not six years.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It can't be six years.

MR. MALLAMO:

It was 2001, so it's four years.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I can live with four. I can't live with six.

MS. FUHRMANN:

So what's the statute of limitations?

MR. OLIVIERI:

That's going to be interesting because a felony is five years. If it's a civil thing, it's six years.

MS. LEBOW:

So we're within the statute of limitations if it's four years, whether it's civil or criminal, is that correct? If we move a little quickly, we'll have some bludgeon here.

MR. OLIVIERI:

As soon as I got it, I took care of it.

MS. LEBOW:

No, I'm saying rather than think about negotiations, we have a window within which to do some

MR. OLIVIERI:

We may not have any right to sue because it was in the contracts between the woman and the purchaser that that lions were going to remain the property of the seller.

MS. LEBOW:

Wait a minute. Say that again. The woman who –

MR. OLIVIERI:

Let me get her name right, Deborah Borra sold it, but in the contracts, when she sold the home, she reserved the rights to keep those two lions as their property. In other words, if you sell your house, mostly fixtures stay with the house, like a chandelier in the dining room. That's a classic example. You can in your contract say I'm taking that chandelier with me.

MS. LEBOW:

Were these lions ever her property to sell?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, she owned them.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Can I ask how did the Town of Huntington get involved with that?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Because this is a historic structure.

MR. MALLAMO:

And she had to apply for a permit to remove them.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, removal required a permit. A crane showed up. Gary and I came flying out here. I was going to strap myself to the lions. Instead of having me strap myself to the lions, they called the police. The police kept me and Gary at bay, and the town came in and issued a summons saying they needed a permit to remove, but they removed them anyway.

MR. OLIVIERI:

They did a late night crane run.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I remember the late night crane operation, but she did own them at that point.

MS. LEBOW:

But she was under a restriction not to remove them.

MR. OLIVIERI:

You have to be careful because –

MR. D'ORAZIO:

That's a simple violation.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, they told her you can't take them until there is a hearing and approval for your permit. She had applied for a permit, and that the lions were not allowed to be moved in any way. One was already down on the ground, and they told her that that one has to stay right there where it is on the ground and the other one has to stay on the post. When they came back the second time, they worked within the property. They brought the crane in the driveway. Shut the gate and locked it. So when the police came, he said he could not enter the property to stop it without a search warrant, even though he could see through the gate.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Why on television do they enter properties without search warrants all the time on probable cause of a crime?

MS. GRAY:

Good luck.

MR. OLIVIERI:

The lions are my project. I'm going to find these lions. We may have a black bag operation here, but we're going to find these things.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Just remember, this is in public session.

MR. OLIVIERI:

Sorry.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'll be strapped to them, and he'll be black bagging them.

MS. LEBOW:

Nobody knows what you mean by black bag. It could be like a lunch bag.

DR. GITTELMAN:

My stuff. It's up to me. I thought Michael's report was great. I thought that the list has given us good direction. I think that the changes that we made in the financial forms will make things clearer. I really feel that you're off to a terrific start. I am praying that all Trustees get in the spirit of this and do what they can. Enjoy it, do what you can, invite your friends, be proud of it, help us raise money because there is this component of responsibility that falls to all Trustees if you read the handbook, which is my second subject.

I have been told not to ask to raise your hand if you have read the handbook, so I'm not going to say to raise your hand if you read the handbook because I'm told this is not kindergarten or elementary school. I was told this is not fourth grade. So I am not going to say, have you read the handbook. But I beg you, please read the handbook. I read it, and it's different from the earlier handbook, so it doesn't matter whether you have been here ten years or not. It is new stuff. The whole thrust of this handbook is different from the thrust of the earlier orange handbook.

The one thing good about the handbook is that it kind of gives you an overview of what we should be doing, and I did not find that much that I disagreed with. It would be good when we go – we can't wait until we go on a retreat to debate issues in the handbook, but you might have questions as to what your responsibilities are or perhaps what are appropriate or inappropriate behaviors. It might spark – and I'm looking at new Trustees, but I ought to look at old Trustees. We all ought to think about what our roles should be. There are at least 25,000 mentions of fundraising in that handbook. Remember, every time you read the handbook and it says about fundraising being critical, well, Steve said it too. Fundraising is critical, and development is critical.

I really want to emphasize committee participation. Deborah pointed out to me and asked who's on what committees. That has been left very loose. My intent for that was that Trustees would approach chair people. Bill Macchione is Chairman of Buildings and Grounds. We didn't ask him to make a report, but he agreed to do it. The chair people are listed here, and if you don't know who the chair people are, call me, I'll talk you through it if you're new. If you're a chairman or chairwoman and you want to know about some of the new Trustees, when they call me, I'll be glad to convey – I'll act as intermediary. I don't mind taking the calls, but by all means, chair people should reach out to members of the Board, and members of the Board should reach out to chair people. Find yourselves committees to work on. I am not in a position -- and I'm not supposed to assign you. The committee chair people can recruit you, but just find a way of doing it. Do it out of interest. I think that we should hear the report from the Development Committee like we have heard it tonight. At every meeting we should make development a critical issue. We have to raise money. It's an important responsibility. We cannot afford to do less than what I think is a very conservative report. We have to do better, and you have to do whatever you can, I hope, to help us, but it has to come from the heart. There is no quota. You don't have to do it. You're not going to get thrown off the Board if you don't do it. You're not going to be penalized for not doing it. I just wish you would because it's part of the deal.

The issue was raised on open meetings. Tony made a point at the end of the last meeting about the Open Meetings Law. I spent time with separate attorneys regarding – more than three – attorneys regarding the Open Meetings Law. With one of those attorney's, Christine Malafi, who is the County Attorney, I made a request, can we have an attorney. We used to have an attorney who was assigned to the board and came to the board meetings, and that is being arranged. In the Open Meetings Law, I'm going to summarize to you what Christine said, and for the moment, that will be what we follow, even though there are some questions about what Christine said. All meetings are open to the public, except for – and I will clarify this – but I think it's logical to say that the executive sessions are not because they are established for particular sensitive reasons. If you would like a copy of the Open Meetings Law, I believe I have it with me, and we can make copies. That means that committee meetings, including the Executive Committee meeting -- and I gave her an example. I said if we meet at Bertucci's Restaurant and we take a table, can the public join us. Well, if the public can join us, certainly any Trustee can join us. Therefore, you're all welcome to join us at the Executive Committee meetings. My feeling is that the Executive Committee is your committee anyway.

In addition to that, all of your committees are open to the public. Another requirement is that minutes be presented. They do not have to be verbatim minutes. They have to be subject minutes. I know that at the Executive Committee meeting, Lance was writing furiously –

MS. FUHRMANN:

So was I.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, so we will produce minutes. Those minutes will be amended to our minutes from these meetings. There are two general requirements. One is that the public has to be allowed to come to your committee meetings. The second thing is that you have to have minutes. But in order for the public to come, you have to post when you're going to have the meetings. It would be good if we had a calendar of committee meetings established. The Executive Committee will meet when?

MS. FUHRMANN:

The next one is scheduled for April 13, which is a Wednesday, at 5:30 at Bertucci's in Hauppauge.

MS. LEBOW:

But we have not said it shall be every specific –

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, we have not said that, but the next one is a Wednesday, which I think is what you asked.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Right, and I don't know when these minutes get posted on the web, but we will consider these minutes to be sufficient notification to the public.

MR. LUECKE:

Are there certain amount of days notice you have to give?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think that there is in the code, and I will bring that to you at the next meeting. I'm trying to give you an overview that I approach this subject. Are there questions? Yes, Susan.

MS. LEBOW:

Is it incorrect that, notwithstanding the Open Meetings Law when you are dealing with matters of personnel, you go into executive session, and that is not open to the public?

DR. GITTELMAN:

That is not open to the public. In other words, we would have to establish the need for an executive session, and we would vote that in executive session. It would occur there. There are a list of possible reasons, litigation and certain negotiations. For example, we could have gone into executive session regarding the lions.

MS. LEBOW:

Exactly, and so my question is, the Personnel Committee meeting, is it by virtue of the subject matter not subject to the Open Meetings Law?

DR. PECORALE:

No, Personnel Committee meetings -- executive sessions, if you're discussing a specific individual and/or the identification of that individual and their position, but if the Personnel Committee meeting is talking about personnel issues in general, like we did tonight, that's not executive session. That's open session.

MS. GRAY:

It says that the public notice needs to be at least one week prior to the meeting and given to the news media and then shall be posted in one or more designated public locations at least 72 hours before such meeting.

MS. LEBOW:

This is a public location.

MS. GRAY:

So am I assuming that, Lance, you're doing it for all the committees?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

MS. GRAY:

Whenever we call you and say we're establishing a date?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

MS. GRAY:

Would an easier way for us to do this is establish a calendar at the beginning of every month for that month and then have that calendar posted versus you having to do meeting by meeting?

MR. MALLAMO:

What I usually do is try and get all of the committee meetings set for the notice for the board meeting.

MS. GRAY:

And then send that out.

MR. MALLAMO:

And send that all out in one notice. I can certainly post that here on a bulletin board the same day.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But what would probably function very nicely would be if we knew what the schedule was for the various committees tonight, for example, and we can start that at the meeting, and it was in our minutes and the minutes were on the web, then that would be a very reasonable public posting. Yes, it is code, and yes we have to follow it. We will perfect following it as we go along. Any questions about that particular issue?

One of the things that I mentioned, and I want to mention it again because it just so happens that last night I went to a very interesting meeting at the law school where I'm also on the Board of Trustees there. What we did there was we invited students, which are a much more controllable group. We invited students to come, and we had focus groups with the students. Four Trustees went away with eight students, and we broke up into three groups of eight students – twenty-four students. We all got together and we talked.

Now, what am I really saying? They did focus groups, and then immediately I said to them, you have to do audience measure. You have to go out there. You might as well as your entire

student body go and answer questionnaires about their feelings now that we found out what the problems are. I think we have to start to measure our audience. I think the question becomes who takes – we can't throw this on Lance's back. We agreed to that in the Executive Committee. It can't be Lance's problem, but I do believe that we should do some audience measurement. Is there any Chairman that wants to take that responsibility? That would be my first question, or should I set up a separate committee for doing so? In the absence of any Committee Chairman asking, then I'll think about how I want to handle it and I'll come back to this. But I do want to do this.

MR. OLIVIERI:

Steve, can you just help explain what you mean by taking a sample or sampling the audience?

DR. GITTELMAN:

One of the things we don't know is why people come here, and what they think of the various programs. What would make them come back? What would they like to see? How often do they attend? Where they are coming from? Who are they and what are their demographics? Did they feel that the admission fees were too high, too low, or inappropriate in any way? Was the staff friendly and courteous? Were the exhibits interesting? Were they presented in a fashion that made them want to learn more? What would they like to learn more about? All things and many more are routine things that are measured in many institutions, especially museums. I think that we have to find out what our public wants. There is an old adage, is that there's a difference between sales and marketing, we tend to sell here. We put together what we think the public wants to see and then we present it to them. Marketing is where you ask the public what they want, and then you give it to them. It's very obvious that there is a difference. You will be more successful if you find that what people want and make sure they get it, and then they will come back for more. I'm suggesting we've never done it, and I want us to. Anybody who is interested in doing it, contact me. If I have to be the committee, I will. But if you are interested in it, let's talk.

MR. D'ORAZIO:

One question, Steve, is there any system set up for recording e-mail addresses of people who come to the museum?

DR. GITTELMAN:

That speaks to the heart of what I just mentioned. If we had the e-mail addresses posted – if, for example, we gave a free grounds pass to anybody who was willing to go to our website to answer a questionnaire, I would, for free, provide the service of having a web-based questionnaire available, so that they could go to the web and answer the questionnaire, and we could provide the tabulations for them. It's part of what my company does, but I really feel we would do it for nothing. We're not looking for any pay, but I feel this museum needs it. I volunteered to other non-for-profits, and they all jumped on it right away, but that's up to this Board.

DR. PECORALE:

Are you talking about an exit interview?

DR. GITTELMAN:

No, I'm really speaking about an interview – it's an exit interview in the sense that it would open it up to people who have been here, but there is no reason why we couldn't open it up to people

who haven't been here and say, "What would you be interested in seeing?" I believe we could get an advertisement in a newspaper where it says, "The Vanderbilt Museum is interested in your opinion. What did you think of your last visit and what would you like to see if you're ever here again? Why haven't you visited?" Let them go to a website and give us opinions. I just feel we need to get a sample of people who have been here and a sample of people who haven't been here.

DR. PECORALE:

I used to do a dose of reality, and I don't know whether you can do that at the museum, but if you could get the telephone numbers of people who visited the museum and have somebody telephone them during a reasonable time, usually early evening after dinner, and just talk to them and ask them questions and ask them to give you a reaction. I had found that you're better off if you do it in person or over the telephone rather than asking them to fill out forms.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I certainly agree with you because my business is telephone interviewing, but I probably would not want to offer 1,000 telephone interviews that last 20 minutes long. I would be glad to do a million 20-minute interviews on the web for free. When someone comes on to the website and answers a questionnaire, which I can program, it doesn't cost me anything.

DR. PECORALE:

The reaction that you get to a web-based response or even to a written response where you hand them out is very different than the reaction that you get -- when you go to a mall, and as you're walking down the mall, somebody stops you and wants to ask you a few questions, they do a random sampling of 20 people who pass them, and then they ask somebody. It's very different.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You're hired as my public relations representative at my company. This is the battle I fight every day, but all the same, the creation of web environments for institutions is that it's just coming. The idea of having a web community for this museum would be a good one. It can be linked to fundraising. For example, after people do a questionnaire and you have interest in them or people who come here and give you their e-mails and now you can send out a web newsletter for example, and soon the list that we use when we do fundraisers gets expanded by virtue of everybody who responds and gives us an e-mail. It is linked to development in that sense. Number one, you want to find out what your audience wants. Number two, you want to find out who they are to raise money from them. Number three, you want to find out how to get them involved. Wait, I have that backwards. You want to get them involved, and then you want to raise money.

MR. D'ORAZIO:

Once you have an e-mailing list, you at that point tell them about events coming up and special events coming up. You can ask for donations. That's the way of the future. That's what the Republican National Committee does. They send you something every two weeks.

DR. PECORALE:

I agree, but my problem is that I think that when you're talking about a museum, what you get in a written response to particularly a web based thing is entirely different than what you get on a personal level.

MR. D'ORAZIO:

Absolutely. No doubt.

DR. PECORALE:

I happen to be a museum person. I just spent a week in Amsterdam and Brussels going to museums. I spent one whole day just at the Van Gough Museum and another one. As I was leaving, obviously I looked like a tourist because of everything I was carrying with me, but as I was leaving, somebody stopped me to talk to me. I think they got a better reaction than they would have gotten if they had asked me to fill out a form or had asked me to respond on the web. That's the only point I'm trying to make.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But, Tony, you're correct. The difference in cost is colossal and much to my chagrin, the market research community is shifting to web research. I don't agree with it because that's not the way I make my living primarily. However, I do have the software, and I would be more than glad to offer it for nothing. I would have somebody program it, and we do charge a lot for programming questionnaires, but we will do that for nothing. We will host it, we will give you updates, we will give you tabulations, and I'd like to see it work. If there is anybody interested in working with me on it, let me know.

Old business?

MR. SEIDES:

I have a question. Do you want to go first, Lance?

MR. MALLAMO:

I just have a housekeeping issue. We approved the minutes earlier, but I neglected on the minutes -- Susan LeBow was listed as absent. I have received a note from her doctor indicating that that should have been an excused absence. I can get you the copy of that letter, Ann Marie. That's it.

MS. LEBOW:

Thank you.

MS. GRAY:

Steve, under your report were we not going to ask the Board to approve the Committee Chairmen, which was consistent with the bylaws?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Good idea. I have no problem with that.

DR. PECORALE:

I thought you could appoint them.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I always thought that was the way it is, but apparently Deborah read the bylaws and --

MS. GRAY:

And we have to approve them.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Since you just read them recently, is there any method or can I simply do it by --

MS. GRAY:

It just says we have to approve whomever you appoint, and since we have a list on the agenda --

DR. PECORALE:

I move that we accept the Chairmen as appointed by the President.

MR. LUECKE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 13/0/0/2 Two vacant positions)** Thank you, Deborah, I appreciate that.

DR. PECORALE:

Under old business, I just wanted to ask a question. We had a couple of years ago a group of people who came to us from Community Services to paint the wall. I guess they were actually from the courts for providing community services.

MR. MALLAMO:

We have a couple of different programs. One, they are doing community service time. Another is Workfare, which is administered through the Social Services Department.

DR. PECORALE:

How much would it cost to get the paint if we can get these people to repaint the wall this spring?

MR. MALLAMO:

Tony, to tell you the truth, I believe we have the paint to paint the wall.

DR. PECORALE:

Can we get the help?

MR. MALLAMO:

The bad news is that they have drastically cut that program back, but we have been very good to that program in the past because we have been one of the few locations where they can work indoors in the winter. So they have a very good rapport with us. I noticed the same thing. I go out to work in the morning and think, boy, that wall is turning green again. We need it painted. I'm going to really pursue that if we can get them back here this spring.

DR. PECORALE:

I just wanted to bring it up if there is anything we can do, maybe even a letter to the appropriate parties and certainly if it's just a question of buying paint, I think we might be able to get some donations to do that.

MR. SEIDES:

I would just like to add that that program got many of the basements painted, and they look terrific.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, we couldn't have gone through the reaccreditation process without that team, several teams. We even had individuals working with Florence in the curatorial area helping cleaning

artifacts, etc., and it really worked out very well. But with recent budget cuts, it's been cut back somewhat. I think we can get at least one crew for the summer.

DR. PECORALE:

The other one was how about the horticultural group? Can we get them back again? We have to buy them lunch, I know that.

MR. MALLAMO:

They're here every Monday. If you would like to come back on Monday – in fact, I was telling Marjorie earlier we're waiting a few more weeks. Last December they planted about 5,000 bulbs including 3,000 in back of those columns. I can't wait to see what happens. We have never had plantings in there with perennials.

DR. PECORALE:

Would it be appropriate for us to send them a thank you note?

MR. MALLAMO:

They would love that.

DR. PECORALE:

Can we ask the Secretary to draft an appropriate thank you note on behalf of the board?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Of course.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I can do that.

MR. LUECKE:

Is that the Master Gardeners?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, that's the Master Gardeners. We have a full-time gardener now, Eric Weaver, that's working with them and attends to their needs. We're now developing horticultural classes for the first time for adults that Eric is going to be providing. We're looking at that as the springboard – when I met with them a couple of weeks ago, they were anxious to get going at Normandy Manor. I hesitate to put too much of a burden on them thinking we have to finish this side of the street. They're like, why can't we get in that garden? So I said, sure go ahead. We're only limited by our ability to buy nursery stock or to get donations.

MR. SEIDES:

Also a number of years ago, we had the Arbor's Society here. They did a terrific job. They should be invited back if not this year, maybe next year.

MR. MALLAMO:

I know I was at another meeting recently where they're going to be in Sayville this year. They tend to move around, but it's been about five years since they were here. I think we could try to get them back. They are going to be doing the Isaack Green estate, Brooksite, and I think Meadowcroft estates. They are working on that this year. That's going to be this Saturday.

MR. SEIDES:

That's terrific. If I may just have the floor for a minute, a couple of years ago Steve asked me to be Chair of Buildings and Grounds. It was a terrific exercise. I learned a huge amount about this wonderful 43-acre campus. Now we have Normandy Manor across the street. I would like to thank Bill for Co-chairing that position with me. I'm staying in touch with Bill Dieck who is wonderful. The man is terrific. He knows these buildings inside and out. He keeps this place in terrific shape with a crew of four. He does a commendable job.

To see the capital improvements to this site has been at times overwhelming. It's terrific. We are very grateful to the County for their support. Millions of dollars have come into this site. Bill has stayed in close connection and ties with all those projects and has kept me informed, which certainly gave me a wonderful background now to be Treasurer to the Board.

My concern, and I have expressed it a couple of times, these capital improvement projects were to bring new furnaces to this site. We have a beautiful new furnace operating the mansion. It's state-of-the-art. Unfortunately, the additional furnaces have not come in. The Hall of Fishes this season was heated with electric. The educational building is down completely all winter. The educational programs have moved to the grounds keepers' cottage, which is a sweet little building, and we're operating fine.

My concern is that if another furnace goes down or we don't get another building up and running, the cost to maintain the buildings will escalate and could go out of sight. A building unheated is bad. I would just like to request the Legislators who support this facility in a very beautiful and wonderful way to please – I would like to encourage them to get the furnaces here so that we can continue to operate in a healthy way. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We need heat. Okay, that was old business and new business combined.

DR. PECORALE:

New business, I have one thing. I speak only for myself with respect to this. I want to express my concerns and I guess my unhappiness of not having committee meetings prior to the regular meetings anymore. I can't get here on Thursdays at all. I switched my day to teaching at the college to Thursday so I could be here on Wednesdays. Now I find that we're not going to anymore committee meetings prior to the regular meetings, which was a major reason for my switching everything around so that I could be here at any time on a Wednesday. I just want to express that I personally do not care for the new way of having committee meetings and really wish we could go back to having committee meetings prior to our regular meetings. If it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen, but at least I had my say.

MS. LEBOW:

Wasn't it just the Finance Committee meeting? What meetings did we have besides the Finance Committee meeting?

DR. PECORALE:

The Finance Committee meeting now has been switched to Fridays.

MS. LEBOW:

Right, and what else was before the general meeting?

DR. PECORALE:

The Education Committee is switched to Thursdays, which I can't possibly make at all because of

the commitment that I made to switch from teaching on Wednesdays to Thursdays. Look, I just want it on the record that I am unhappy with that new arrangement. It's my problem.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

Well, the Educational Committee is only meeting on Thursday for next month.

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's not a set-in-stone thing.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

If Wednesday is more convenient, we can check with everyone else.

DR. PECORALE:

I said what I said.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think we all note your feelings, and given that nobody likes to have anyone upset about something -- I suspect that some of these committee times will be difficult for a lot of people. I guess we'll see how they work. Let's consider it something that we're trying. I would like to support the Chairs that set up the times. I imagine and assume that they did that for a reason, and it's still their prerogative, but your feelings are so noted. We have not established a need for an executive session. Can I have a motion to adjourn?

DR. PECORALE:

Motion to adjourn.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? We're adjourned. **(Vote: 13/0/0/2 Two vacant positions)**

(Dr. Steve Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.)

SG:ap