

**SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on **September 21, 2005** at Normandy Manor, Centerport, New York.

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
Michael B. DeLuise - Trustee
David D'Orazio - Trustee
Carl Luecke - Trustee
William Macchione - Trustee
Daniel Olivieri - Trustee
Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Trustee
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director
Bill Dieck - Staff
Mitch Spivak - Staff
Todd Shapiro - Todd Shapiro & Associates
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Excused Absence:

Maria Figalora - Trustee

Absent:

Howard Kleinberg
Gretchen Oldrin-Mones

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

DR. GITTELMAN:

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

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do we have anybody who would like to address the Board? Okay, can we have a motion for approval of the minutes?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move the minutes from the previous meeting be approved.

MR. DELUISE:

I'll second that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any discussion or questions? All in favor? Opposed? **The minutes are approved. (Vote: 11/0/0/4 Not Present: Mr. D'Orazio. Absent: Ms. Figalora, Mr. Kleinberg & Ms. Oldrin-Mones.)**

We have a special committee report that we're going to do now.

DR. PECORALE:

A committee was formed consisting of Susan LeBow, Gretchen and myself to review a complaint by a former employee of the museum that had sent a letter to the County Executive. The committee has reviewed all of the documentation and met with Lance. Upon completion of our report, we are prepared to write a response to the County Executive, which we will do and send out to the President, Lance, and to members of the Board.

We have concluded by our investigation that the complaint is unfounded. Based upon the documentation, the museum staff has done all of the things necessary to do to deal with the issue. If anyone has any specific problems or questions or want to deal further with the problem, you certainly can address any questions to me or to Susan. We do want you to know that we did review all of the documentation to make sure that it was in order. We believe that we have grounds to stand and that all of the appropriate decisions were taken into account.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Susan, do you want to add anything?

MS. LEBOW:

No, I think you did an excellent report. Basically her allegations were not supported by the facts, so there is no basis for us to give any credence to anything that she said.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Did you review the original records?

MS. LEBOW:

Yes, we did. And it's my understanding that I am going to draft a proposed letter and send a copy to you, Steve, and Lance addressing this. I think it was intended that it would be for Steve's signature, but if you would rather have it as the report of the committee –

DR. PECORALE:

I don't have a problem with you signing it or if you want the committee to sign it. I really don't think it's a major issue.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think if the committee signs it, sends it to me, I'll put a cover letter on it.

MS. LEBOW:

Fine, that's what we'll do.

DR. PECORALE:

Then that's what we'll do.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay. We thank all three of you for hammering that out and getting it done. Public Relations Report.

MR. MALLAMO:

I don't see Todd.

MR. DELUISE:

Todd said he was on his way.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Buildings and Grounds Committee.

MR. MACCHIONE:

No report today.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We had extensive conversations that evolved from the Finance Committee meeting, Bill. In that meeting we came to the conclusion that we needed to access the facilities that are available to use as classrooms. We are actually getting a strong response –

MR. MACCHIONE:

About the classroom needs.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That not only are we limited by – it seems like maybe we're limited by educators – but if we have no place to put them, we can't hire the educators. We need the facilities in order to get it off the ground. I was wondering if you would be willing to survey the available facilities and if two or three of the Trustees could do an analysis. Actually, I don't know if it takes Trustees, but can you and your committee with whatever Trustees wish to join you to do an analysis of the facilities with an eye toward what we could use for classrooms.

MR. MACCHIONE:

What would be the parameters for a class size?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I don't know. What do you think, Lance?

MR. MALLAMO:

Thirty students.

MR. MACCHIONE:

Thirty on average.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have some facilities, which might at this point be marginal. One of the ones that became a major subject of debate was the dinosaur building. I think we have to do an analysis of even that building, as well, to find out what it would take to make it a functioning building in all seasons or in which seasons and what the potential revenues are. The first blush is, can we identify some classrooms that we can immediately expand our class enrollment to the school groups that are coming.

MS. GRAY:

Bill and I will be doing that –

MR. MACCHIONE:

We will do that as soon as possible and give the report to Lance definitely before the next meeting.

MR. SEIDES:

I would just like to say that I would be happy to be on that committee. Please include me in that.

MR. MACCHIONE:

Great, thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It might even help if you identify a prospect as soon as possible because they are booking school groups now. Maybe we shouldn't take this to the meeting schedule. For example, if you sit down with Lance and Lance says, "I know just the place. Let's take a walk and go over there," and you look at it and say, "Yes, we should use the laundry room," let's not be formal about this. Let's identify a classroom and let's get it in use. Let's go the most efficient path.

DR. PECORALE:

When we were talking about this earlier, I didn't say anything. I was sort of biting my tongue. Are we suggesting that the classrooms that we would use will meet all of the requirements of the school classroom?

MR. MALLAMO:

No.

DR. PECORALE:

The reason why I ask that question is because there are lots of things that are required for school classes. We have to have exits in two separate smoke zones, and I know there are a couple of rooms that we use that --

MR. MALLAMO:

I have to say, Tony, any space that we use for the public is reviewed by the Fire Marshal ahead of time, and we get their okay.

DR. PECORALE:

The Fire Marshal.

MR. MALLAMO:

The Fire Marshal of Suffolk County.

DR. PECORALE:

Not the education people.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right. We have the Fire Marshal and the Health Department. We haven't had the Education Department. I don't believe we're required to because these students really aren't in these rooms more than 40 minutes at a time, a half hour maybe.

DR. PECORALE:

I'll tell you what, if you let me know –

MR. MALLAMO:

When I say they don't meet all the requirements, I'm talking about blackboards and a desk for the teacher. It is a space that is fit for public assembly and occupancy.

DR. PECORALE:

Just let me know when you're having a walk-through. I would like to be a part of that.

MR. MALLAMO:

Sure.

DR. GITTELMAN:

One of the things that I wanted to put in the Public Relations Report, and given that Todd is not here, is the questionnaire that we originally discussed putting up has been up on the website for a while. We haven't promoted it. I thought you might be interested in just seeing this. There were only eight respondents, but I thought you still might be interested in knowing that it's up and has been up.

In addition to that, if I pass this around you can all go in there and do the questionnaire without biasing our data. If you copy down this access code and just pass it around and you each copy it down, you will be able to access the questionnaire. It's on our website. Like any questionnaire that gets launched, once you get a little bit of data, you kind of look at it and say maybe I should revisit this and fine-tune it. If you go in and do the questionnaire, it will give you an opportunity to see what we have up there. It's running pretty long. We can make these tables available to you as people go to the site and fill it out.

MS. GRAY:

Can you just explain one of the –

DR. GITTELMAN:

Sure, pick one.

MS. GRAY:

Let's do the one on page two, "The grounds were in excellent condition." Three people said – thirty-three people gave it a three?

DR. GITTELMAN:

No, three people gave it a three, two people gave it a four, and two people gave it a five.

MS. GRAY:

I see. It just registered the three is number three and thirty-three is –

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm going to say to you that as I was literally walking out of the building, I got into my car, turned around and said, "Do you know what? I have to bring this to at least prove that it's up there." I ran back in and we just ran a printout, which I have not looked at yet.

MS. GRAY:

I'm just trying to get a sense about this. The one that is more interesting is, "Exhibits were interesting." Two agreed, one gave it a four and four gave it a three, meaning that a majority of the people don't think the exhibits are interesting?

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's exactly what that would mean.

MS. GRAY:

Well, that would –

DR. GITTELMAN:

But you see, three is neutral because it's a one to five scale.

MS. GRAY:

But still it's important for us to know because that leads into the whole conversation that we had at Finance.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm not arguing with you. I'm just saying that –

MS. GRAY:

So this can be useful.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I would warn you that eight people's opinion is really not a lot of people.

DR. PECORALE:

So one would be "strongly disagree," two would be "disagree," three would be "neutral," four would be "agree," and five would be "strongly agree."

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, but I hate to tell you that we changed the scale so that we flip it. If we flip the question – for example, you will see somewhere a "strongly agree" is a positive and somewhere a "strongly disagree" is a negative, just so we know that somebody is awake while they are doing it. What I am going to do is pass around one sheet of paper. I should have made you all copies. If you would all write down that code number, you will be able to go in there and do a sample questionnaire without corrupting the data. If it doesn't work for you, call me up and we will set up a link so I can send you an e-mail with a link.

MS. GRAY:

Just to continue on with your list, you also listed all of the exhibits and asked what they saw.

MR. MALLAMO:

It looks like the Hall of Fishes is the winner.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, on eight people, sure. What I am really doing is showing you the questionnaire. I'm showing you that it's live. I really wish that you would not look – well, you're welcome to look at the question once you continue giving the other questions –

DR. PECORALE:

Is there any question in here that identifies the age of the respondent so we can tell if it's a student versus an adult? I didn't see it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I recall we did have that in there. Would you please look at page 11 of 12?

DR. PECORALE:

It asks, "How many have children under 15 years of age?" Seven were under 18 years of age.

DR. GITTELMAN:

There were people who went to the site, put it in, and gave us information. You have to understand, we're not promoting this site. We're not saying when a visitor comes, would you please go to the site. We're not trying to collect the data. It's sitting there passively. None of you went to it because none of you felt – you didn't even know it existed. But it does exist. Does it need to be adjusted? Yes, and that would be the purpose of all of you going there and saying, "Steve, it's way too long," or "Steve, I think we should take questions out." I would be glad to change it any way we agree, but now you all have an opportunity to go there before the next meeting. Or you can even call me and let me have it. It's live and before each meeting I would bring you in a new set of paths so you could see these tables. Yes, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

You're much more of an expert in this field than I am, but does something like this always skew young because kids and people of student age, under the age of 18, always go to computers first? Here people like myself wouldn't.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Marge, I totally agree with you.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'm just asking, how would we overcome something like that?

DR. GITTELMAN:

First of all, let me just say to you that I feel that collecting data over the web is biased to begin with.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Because of something like that?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Because it is age biased, it's education biased, it's income biased, it's race biased, just about every biased you could come up with. We do still have telephones, which is the way I make my

living, and I do do this for a living too, but the bottom line is that that's what the market research world is doing right now. We have this. The cost was right.

MS. GRAY:

I think it's a good tool to get started with. I think you should let it run for a few months and then we can see what we like and what we don't like about it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

There is a lot of good information here.

MS. GRAY:

There are other ways to get the older clientele but the reality is that most of the people using the museum are under 18. Maybe we'll learn something about what they like and don't like.

MS. FUHRMANN:

There was a great idea for a new program in here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What was it?

MS. FUHRMANN:

A behind-the-scenes tour and how to set up an exhibit.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, the behind-the-scenes tour. The other thing I noticed was –

MS. FUHRMANN:

Page six of twelve.

MR. MALLAMO:

Twice as many people –

MS. FUHRMANN:

Question nine about halfway down, maybe.

MR. MALLAMO:

Which page?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Page six about a third of the way up from the bottom. It seems to be one that people, young people, would be interested in doing.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think a behind-the-scenes tour – that's one of the things we always talked about. Speaking of using our facilities –

MS. FUHRMANN:

The curator's cottage, remember when we were going to –

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's right. We were going to take the curator's cottage and put the money in there and have

that tour.

MS. FUHRMANN:

But now we really need that space.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But we were going to emphasize the role of the curator in how a museum functions. We were going to make it part of our mantra.

MR. MALLAMO:

Do you know what delayed that? The capital project, the bid opened October 18.

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's never been forgotten, Steve.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The other thing is, where is the sarcophagus?

MR. MALLAMO:

With the mummy.

DR. GITTELMAN:

When did it get back?

MR. MALLAMO:

About a year ago. We announced that. We put it back in the original case in the mansion. It's in the sarcophagus and the sarcophagus is in the original case.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Oh, the original case.

MR. MALLAMO:

What I think is interesting here is twice as many people are interested in the living history mansion tour rather than the traditional tour. That's something that young people usually don't go on, the mansion tour.

MS. FUHRMANN:

But the living history is not the mansion tour. It's a different world.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's a whole different thing. It's an experience.

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's a theater piece that makes it not a mansion tour. It's a theater piece. It's very different.

(Mr. D'Orazio entered the meeting at 7:55 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

I just came back from a scouting trip up to Newport.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Did you enjoy it?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I loved it. You all should go. Newport is a great town. The curators were very nice to me. I spent a long time speaking to them about their experiences. I spoke to the curators about how they are handling their tours. The difference – I'll tell you, our tours are as good as theirs. They are using professional actors and actresses. To show you the difference, they told me when one of their mansions wanted to open up their living history tour, they had 8,000 applicants for six positions. Those tours are booked. It's like 30 people in a group and then the next group, the next group, no waiting time. They are charging \$27 a person, just for that tour. Living history is very hot right now. Are we done with this? Okay, let's move on. We did Development Committee. Education and Exhibits, Marge.

MR. DELUISE:

Well, in the Development Committee we haven't talked about the gala.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm sorry. I missed that. Go ahead.

MR. DELUISE:

The gala is going to be for the "Night in El Morocco." Lance, his staff and the committee are doing a really good job. I think it's going to be a big success.

MR. MALLAMO:

We have posters if anybody wants to put any up. You can take them with you tonight.

MR. DELUISE:

You still have a week and a half to get your tickets in. Lance, how are we doing up to today?

MR. MALLAMO:

We have about 117 responses so far. Usually they come in the last ten days, so we're hoping to double that in the next ten days or so.

MR. DELUISE:

And the sponsorships are still coming in?

MR. MALLAMO:

They are still coming in. We're still actively seeking them.

MR. DELUISE:

The one question I had is, Kelly was going to talk about bringing in the young crowd. Have we gotten any response on that yet?

MR. MALLAMO:

I haven't seen it. She has told me that she's got 60 tickets committed, but I haven't received any money. I think she's counting on it because we're paying her 5 percent of every ticket she sells.

MR. DELUISE:

I have been told that Channel 11 is scheduled to come next week.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, and we did the show with News 12 in back. It should come out sensational. It was very exotic looking with belly dancing on the rear fountain lawn. That will be on next Wednesday all day every hour in four minute segments. They interview Kelly and I about the "Night in El Morocco." We have this poster done in banner form down in Huntington Village. It's up on the corner of Park and 25A. I really have to thank Heckscher Museum and the Huntington Art Council for cooperating with us in letting us put our banner in what is their space. They have taken their banners down the past two weeks. So those are up. We have done an e-invitation, and that's been blasted out to several thousand.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Bill.

MR. MACCHIONE:

I have \$6,300 right here that I will hand over. There's a \$5,000 sponsor, a \$1,000 sponsor and some individuals.

MR. MALLAMO:

You just doubled the money we took in so far. Thank you, Bill.

MS. GRAY:

Are we selling tickets the night of the event?

MR. MALLAMO:

I think we will because technically we can't get over 300 in the tent, but that's in the tent.

DR. GITTELMAN:

They can be on the grass.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, they can be on the grass. They can be in the courtyard, so I'm not turning anybody away.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'll give tours.

MR. MALLAMO:

We did it for the rotary event, and it worked out just fine.

MS. GRAY:

Right.

MR. DELUISE:

Good job.

MR. MALLAMO:

Pray that it's nice weather that night.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are you done, Mike?

MR. DELUISE:

Yes, I'm done.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, Education and Exhibits.

MS. FUHRMANN:

The Education and Exhibits Committee has met a number of times over the past several months. Among the other things that we discussed, we discussed what information is given to a school prior to their visit. We wanted everyone to know that as well as giving them their pre and post informational visit on what they are going to see at the Vanderbilt, we also always include information about William K. Vanderbilt and what he, himself, has done and what he did during his lifetime.

A program standard is being developed for the Dinosaur Program for when it is booked so that they will have their individual information packet.

As we have discussed in the Finance Committee meeting this evening, there is a great need to get more word out to the public about the programs that we have here, specifically the Dinosaur Exhibit. Staff is researching ways to accomplish that. They have contacted Channel 14 regarding having the museum and the Dinosaur Exhibit specifically put on the Channel 14 banner, which is a great free service that Cablevision offers. They are writing columns for Community News, Penny Saver, and things of that nature. They have also been talking to Todd Shapiro and have sent in a copy of the school brochure at his request for his advice on how to expand further into our community.

The NOAA Program has been started at the weather station, and a fence was put up to protect the area and the students who are taking that course. We have also started the Mars Adventure Jason Project, and that should bring in additional school and scout groups.

We're pleased to report that the exhibit for the dinosaur program, the attendance is up and the picnic area is working well. We are booking birthday parties there now as well and selling of lunches on-site has begun. We're doing school lunches now and birthday party lunches. When the school books that they are going to come to the museum, they can order lunches, and we will provide them here instead of the children having to bring their own bag lunches or leave here, so we can book them longer for more programs because they don't have to leave to go for lunch. We thought that was a good thing.

There are some problems with the building. Unfortunately, our carpenter has been ill so repairs are not proceeding as quickly as we had hoped and anticipated, but they are getting done. People are enjoying their experience with the exhibits. Sounds have been introduced on a continuous loop, and that has enhanced the atmosphere of the exhibit, and it has been a positive addition. People have commented on that.

The staff is meeting with Keith Straser, who sculpts dinosaurs and does dinosaur artwork. He is from this area, and they are talking to him about potentially enhancing the exhibits for us.

We would also like to thank the students of Harborfield High School Honor Society, who helped us put out our school brochure this year. Work that used to take a week to two weeks to be done took a day and a half. Letters have been sent to their high school thanking them for their

volunteerism.

In your packets tonight, you will see a number of papers stapled together concerning a donation that was given to us that we would like to accession next month. This material was donated by the son of the captain of Vanderbilt's yacht. We feel it's vital that it be added to our archives as a permanent part of the collection. We'd like everyone to review it this month so we could discuss it next month. Florence Ogg who is the curator of the mansion, will be bringing the actual pieces here for everyone to see next month so that we can vote on its accession.

Unfortunately, we also have to report that there are continuing problems with the laser equipment. It has not been functioning properly. It has been out of service for a while. Lance has been pursuing this for the company, and hopefully it will be resolved shortly. That's our report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions or comments? Thank you, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

You're welcome.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Finance Committee, Bert.

MR. SEIDES:

Yes, the Finance Committee met this evening. We met here at 5:30. I was very pleased to see a number of Board Members here. We had a nice, open discussion about our finances. I feel we all ended up somewhat on the same page with a new understanding of where we have some areas of need.

Also this month, we have three payrolls, which put an added stress on our financial flow. This was also discussed this evening.

In our folders this evening, we do have the Treasurer's Report. Please review it. If you have any questions, you're welcome to bring them forward to me or Lance or up to our next Finance meeting, which we would like to leave at the 5:30 time just before next month's meeting.

In my folder I have the check history for August and September. I would like to pass them around for your perusal. I would like them back. Thank you. That is the end of my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions? Personnel Committee, Deborah Gray.

MS. GRAY:

The Personnel Committee met yesterday. We continue to review some administrative issues around our programs. We are not at this point prepared to make any recommendations. We also are recommending that we consider having one of the County Attorneys come before the Board to discuss with us various issues like conflicts of interests, confidentiality, Board Members' ethical business conduct, and issues around sexual harassment policies. Lance and I have had conversations. We are going to try to find an appropriate person, and then we'll survey the Board as to an appropriate time that people might be available to listen to the County Attorney.

We are still asking the Trustees to make a financial contribution to help us do the criminal investigations for the volunteers. I think four Trustees to date have participated. We reviewed the fact that all of the performance evaluations for all the employees were conducted this year. This is the first year that Lance has been successful in doing a full evaluation of the entire staff. However, the only person who didn't get their performance evaluation was Lance, which was our responsibility as a Board. Steve and I discussed this, and I think he is prepared to talk with us this evening about it. That ends my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If Deborah would agree, I'm going to distribute to the Board Members a report. Yes, Susan.

MS. LEBOW:

I don't know if this is the appropriate moment, but Gretchen asked us to mention that her daughter, who is a labor attorney, is going to be in the area. I think she spoke with you about this. She is willing to come at no charge to us and talk with the staff about issues revolving around labor relations and the way the museum business is conducted. I think it would be wonderful. I just wanted to let everybody know. Lance, what is the date that this would happen?

MR. MALLAMO:

I didn't get a date yet, but it was in the near future. It was going to be within the next several weeks.

MS. LEBOW:

Deborah should know about it as the Chair of the Personnel Committee because I think it's a wonderful opportunity to have the benefit of her knowledge.

MR. MALLAMO:

And she's also reviewing our personnel manual.

MS. LEBOW:

Right, she's going to review the personnel manual. Also what came to life when we were reviewing this problem is maybe there is a better way to handle all the reviews and the documentation of the review of these employees, so that you have a record that is in conformity with what is the accepted practice, and she could tell you that, so that in the future we would have everything documented the way a labor lawyer would recommend it. I think on many levels this is a very good thing to do. It's not for the Trustees, although I think that you should let us all know when it's going to happen because any of us who are interested in sitting in on that – I, for one, if I have enough notice and I can clear my calendar, would really like to come and hear what she has to say. Would you let us know, please, Lance?

MR. MALLAMO:

I certainly will.

DR. PECORALE:

I think it's probably going to be on a Friday.

MS. LEBOW:

It's going to be on a Friday, okay.

DR. PECORALE:

She said that it's going to have to be on the date when her daughter-in-law is here in New York.

She was going to get back to us with the date.

MS. LEBOW:

Lance, I don't know if she gave you any particular dates yet.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What I would like to do, and now that I have distributed these letters, and I want to thank Deborah for her help in preparing this, I would like to convene in executive session at the end of this meeting to discuss the letter briefly at that time. May I have a second for that?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll do that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 12/0/0/3 Absent: Ms. Figalora, Mr. Kleinberg & Ms. Oldrin-Mones.)**

Is there anything else on your Personnel Committee?

MS. GRAY:

No.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Nominating Committee, the way we have traditionally done this is we have nominated a Nominating Committee according to the bylaws. There are supposed to be three members on that Nominating Committee. The committee is chosen by this body, and the Chairman of the Committee is picked by the President of the Board. I think the way we could do that is that there can be nominations from the floor, and then we'll vote on the top three. If there are only three, we will vote on the whole slate, however it works out. Can I entertain any nominations for the Nominating Committee? Carl.

MR. LUECKE:

I nominate Tony Pecorale.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a second?

MR. OLIVIERI:

I second that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

I'd like to nominate Daniel Olivieri.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a second?

MS. GRAY:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Gretchen.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a second?

MS. GRAY:

Second.

MR. OLIVIERI:

I nominate Carl Luecke.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can I have a second?

DR. PECORALE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are there any other nominations? Is there a motion to close nominations?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Motion.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a second?

MS. GRAY:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 12/0/0/3 Absent: Ms. Figalora, Mr. Kleinberg & Ms. Oldrin-Mones.)** Okay, so we have four candidates, but we can only have three positions. What I would like is –

MS. GRAY:

Is it limited to three seats or three or more?

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's limited to three. We can do it by closed ballot, or we can do it by open vote. Do you want to do it individually? If you want to do it by closed ballot, everybody writes down three names –

MR. MALLAMO:

If you give me two minutes, I could make something up.

MS. FUHRMANN:

There is computer paper behind you over there, over by the computer.

MS. LEBOW:

Lance, you can write the four names –

MR. MALLAMO:

And then put a box by each name.

MS. GRAY:

Maybe we could do the Public Relations Report while we're waiting.

DR. GITTELMAN:

By all means.

MR. SHAPIRO:

I want to report on the gala coming up. It hit News 12 last week. They were at the museum. It worked out real well. It will air the Wednesday before the gala. Channel 11 is coming to the museum next Wednesday, and they will be here for three hours – actually, five o'clock in the morning until nine o'clock in the morning to do a promo on the "Night in El Morocco." We're going to do a Moroccan type of theater where people will be dressed up, almost like promoting the event. We'll do that all morning long. If anybody wants to come, that would be great. Larry Huff, who does the morning show, will be here at the museum. We have contacted all the local papers. They will be doing features on it. Newsday also is going to have something in the Friday before to promote the event.

That's really what we've been working on. We're trying to get the word out by magazine, Daily News, "What's to Do." I've been speaking to either Mike or Lance almost every day. Our number one focus is to try to get as much publicity this month on the "Night at El Morocco." That's our number one priority.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Questions?

MR. SHAPIRO:

News 12 is going to be here. It's going to be running all morning long on "What's to Do." It should help as far as getting the word out.

MR. DELUISE:

Are we going to get tapes of those?

MR. SHAPIRO:

Yes, shortly. There is a belly dancer segment on there. It's an open casting call for anybody who wants to partake in it.

MS. LEBOW:

There are a lot of bellies here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you.

MR. SEIDES:

Thank you, Todd.

MS. LEBOW:

Do you want us to do this now?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes. Do you want to take a break and we'll just count them? Actually, why don't we go to my report first. I mentioned to you before that I went up to Newport, and I had a really fabulous experience meeting the various directors of the various museums up there, taking all the tours and getting an inside look at what they've got.

The first thing I want to report is that our archives are "the" archives. I asked them, "What have you got?" They said, "Well, whatever you sent us." Their entire slant is different. It's positioned around interpreting the buildings -- the buildings or the people. They talk about the people but only in how they related to the buildings. They are not interested in what the people did in terms of making a living. Their histories are having an impact. They have no intentions of advancing that. There is a tremendous opportunity in interpretation to go forward and get into what it was like to be in this mansion. The living history seems to be key. There is only one mansion doing living history. Others are just swamped with visitors. It was very interesting. I urge you all to take a weekend and go to Newport. It's not a big drive.

MR. LUECKE:

It's a great spot.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It was a lot of fun. I really enjoyed it. I think the thing I found most interesting, because I do so much living history here, was how popular the living history was there. That was the only mansion that there was a line to get into. At times they actually have a one-hour waiting period. They have all their shows booked. Of course, the other mansions won't speak to them, but it's very nice. I recommend that you do it.

As far as other things going on, that's really what I was going to tell you in my report. Any questions that I can answer?

MR. LUECKE:

I spent quite a bit of time there over the years. They have a lot of buses with senior citizens. They, interestingly enough, cross the street to get to that mansion. They park on one side and walk across. It's a more private street than this one.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I've never been so excited about this place. I always loved it, but I have never been so excited about this place as I am now having gone there. I always felt if I go there, that they're just going to make me feel like we're second rate. They have the highest regard for us. Everyone I spoke to that knew of us said, "Oh, you're the place on Long Island," and they would love to come here. Many of them have been here, and we haven't known it. They have come here, done our tours, and seen our place. They aren't doing the school groups like we're doing. They're just not the same. By the way, they are in red ink. They are having big problems. They can't keep up with their facilities. There is so much I could tell you and go on for a long time. Sometimes you just have to look at the guy next door to see how you're doing. It was a wonderful experience. By

the way, I found technical mistakes in their living history tour. I said, "This is wrong, that's wrong, and that's wrong," and they didn't like me anymore. That was it.

MR. MALLAMO:

Okay, the Nominating Committee will be Tony Pecorale, Dan Olivieri, and Carl Luecke.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All right, we would ask that the committee come back with the report in November. Thank you all for serving. I'll let you guys know who I'll make Chairman. I just want to think about it. Director's Report.

MR. MALLAMO:

Okay, as I indicated earlier in Finance, but I'll bring it up again here, we're knee deep in capital projects, not only ones that are occurring but planning to have the appropriations for this year's Capital Budget is just about complete right now, and we're ready to move those requests forward.

The planning has been done on the waterfront project. The State Environmental Quality Review Act's environmental assessment form has been completed and submitted. The ADA project is going to be submitted. The environmental review for that has also been done.

The Normandy Manor planning for public assembly is another project for façade restoration, \$250,000, to hopefully take the netting down off the bell tower. It's very interesting. I looked at that net last week, and there were two chunks of concrete. I'm real glad we put that net up, or we could have had a catastrophe.

So we have four projects coming up. Our plumbing project, this is the major plumbing project and it has actually started. They started with something that's dear to my heart, not the people that use the bathrooms here but all of the historic bathrooms in the mansion that don't even function. The tubs, toilets and sinks are all being re-porcelained and all the fixtures are being taken apart, rebuilt, polished. I believe they have 50 percent done, and it's totally amazing when you see these bathrooms now. Please, don't use them because they have no water. The water will start October 3. At that point, we'll be putting in the major new bathroom rehabilitation in the lower portion. Just yesterday I picked out all of the finishes and countertops, stall tiles, etc. That will be occurring. We really wanted to start that this month, but with the gala coming up, we thought it was important that we have bathrooms for that event. That will occur two days after the gala.

The day after will be the Vanderbilt Cup 101. It's the 101st anniversary of the 1904 Vanderbilt Cup Race and the centennial of the 1905 race. We are having another gala car show, which based on the responses we have so far, we should have at least 200 vehicles by that day.

We also participated with the Cradle of Aviation Museum in helping to prepare an exhibit on the Vanderbilt Cup 101, which was at their museum for two weeks previously and is now moving here this week. As part of that exhibit, that was put together by Howard Kroplick, one of our best volunteers on the Vanderbilt Cup Races. He's really an expert and a great supporter of the Vanderbilt Museum. He personally paid for many of the photographic and graphic pieces in that exhibit, loaned a number of his artifacts from his own collection and even went so far as to have a 3-D model made of the grandstand at the original race, which took the artist about four months to build. It's almost the size of this table, and then you compare it with the historic photograph, it's just uncanny how beautiful it is. He donated that to the museum earlier this week. So that will

be ours permanently. That will be here for the car show on the 2nd.

Also this month, as you know, we were awarded a \$15,000 grant from member preference items through the New York State Senate and the New York State Natural Heritage Trust Program to replace the telescope in our observatory, which has been grinding itself to iron filings for the past several years. This is a much needed boost. We have the equipment picked out that we want to put in there. Hopefully we'll be able to get that installed within the next couple of months. My hat is off to Senator John Flanagan who assisted in that effort and Commissioner Bernadette Castro of the Parks Department.

We're busy working up our holiday events right now. To help increase our revenues, we're going to be starting our holiday program the first week of November. It seems to be working because we're getting calls and bookings that week. It would really be Election Day where people are coming to a holiday show that week. We're going to do one evening show and one Saturday morning show. That's my report for this month.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions or comments? Okay, any old business?

MR. OLIVIERI:

Old business. This weekend is the weekend I find out whether those lions are up in Corning or not.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Get those lions.

MR. OLIVIERI:

I don't know. We'll see. I'm going up there. I'll bring my camera and then we'll have to decide what we want to do.

MR. MALLAMO:

Now, if you don't come back, we'll just –

MR. OLIVIERI:

If I don't come back, you'll know I'm not going to be getting them.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Hey, Dan, I know a good lawyer. Don't worry about it.

MR. OLIVIERI:

I might need a doctor, that's what I might need.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any other old business?

MR. MALLAMO:

I should just say that Dan's been very helpful. As Marjorie said, earlier we have been having problems with our laser equipment, and I have been communicating with Dan about that issue to protect our rights, if we do have a problem with the manufacturer.

MR. OLIVIERI:

Unfortunately, they didn't fix it again.

MR. MALLAMO:

They came to fix it. It just didn't last very long. I've been touching base with Dan, and I appreciate the open communication that you have had with them.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We are very grateful to you, Dan.

MR. OLIVIERI:

Any time.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, is there any new business? We have established the need for executive session. I think the simplest thing to do – I hate to ask, but can the four of you folks just step outside. We probably won't be that long.

(Executive Session: 8:35 p.m. – 8:50)

(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.)

SG:ap