

**SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on **December 7, 2005** at Normandy Manor, Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President
Susan LeBow - 2nd Vice President
Bertram E. Seides - Treasurer
David D'Orazio - Trustee
Maria Figalora - Trustee
Howard Kleinberg - 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
Bill Dieck - Staff
Mitch Spivak - Staff
Robert Taylor – Auditor, Lambrides
Valerie Jones – Auditor, Lambrides
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Absent:

Deborah A. Gray - 1st Vice President
Michael B. DeLuise – Trustee

DR. GITTELMAN:

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

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is there a representative for Todd Shapiro here tonight?

MR. MALLAMO:

There isn't yet. I had a message from Todd. He has been trying to call me, but he missed me today.

DR. GITTELMAN:

He called me four times, but I couldn't get on the phone. I'll assume there is no Public Relations Report. I will skip it. Buildings and Grounds Committee.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Excuse me, approval of the minutes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

My apologies. Approval of the minutes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I was not at the last meeting. However, I did ask a number of Trustees who did read the minutes, and there is just one mention on the cover and on page three. Ron Margulies should be Lon Margulies, with an "L". Other than that, I move that the minutes be approved.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. MACCHIONE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'm going to abstain.

DR. GITTELMAN:

(Vote: 12/0/1/2 Abstained: Ms. Fuhrman. Absent: Mr. DeLuise & Ms. Gray.)

Buildings and Grounds, Bill.

MR. MACCHIONE:

No report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Development Committee, Michael DeLuise isn't here.

DR. PECORALE:

I was told that Mike had to fill in for the President tonight. I don't know if that's true, but he could not be here. Is that correct?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, he had to fill in for the President of Dowling this evening.

DR. PECORALE:

I spoke to him. He told me he wasn't going to be here and that he had to fill in for the President.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is there a Development Report in substitution?

MR. MALLAMO:

No.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If we keep not having these reports, we're going to get through the meeting quickly.

Education and Exhibits Committee, Marge or Gretchen.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

Yes, we have lots. We'll make up for everyone. I'll pass around the numbers and the attendance. We had a meeting on November 7. During that meeting we set some goals to accomplish. We discussed the progress and the problems in certain areas of concern and shared staff news and accomplishments.

We'd like to develop some new programs that would expand our offerings without tying up our collections. One idea would be to create a natural history trail, an idea that is loaded with potential, as it could be utilized by different age groups. Lance says that it can be done. Part of the trail can be reclaimed; part of it is overgrown but it is definitely a possibility. Lorraine said that she could work to develop a program for it.

Other suggestions were made, mostly by Tony, about using the museum facilities when they were normally underutilized for teacher education. Newer teachers are required to take about 37 hours of in-service courses a year, and more experienced teachers also take these in-service courses. It's a huge and potentially lucrative market and organizations that cater to this educational need do a brisk business. It's an opportunity to present ideas that teachers could take back to the classroom or to collect a site use fee. Another suggestion was to offer weekend programs for gifted and talented students. Other potential new educational offerings were discussed, but they would cost money to develop. For instance, Lorraine is now a trained weather spotter and could develop a weather program utilizing our NOAA Weather Station for students in middle and high school. That's two age groups presently under-served in our educational programming. However, the slides and materials needed to develop this program would cost about \$2,500. If money were available, this program could be ready to go by September. If anyone has any ideas about how to fund this program, please suggest them. One important point is that in adding new courses, we will probably require another educator. That is something to consider.

We offer so many fine programs and are excited about the prospect of adding more, especially now that the cottage studio is prepared and ready for use as an additional classroom. However, an ongoing problem with existing and new programs is advertising. We do not have the exposure we need to promote and fully book our programs. We do our best by working with existing mailing lists. Recently Beth has entered the member list into her computer for educational mailings. The winter and the spring break program flyers have been mailed out, but we know we are not reaching potential new clients. Staff suggested an event board at the entrance to the museum. The event board would have a map and then publicize upcoming activities, especially holiday activities. This seems like a reasonable and a good idea. If anyone has any ideas about how to pay for it and make it happen, please let us know.

Regarding advertising in general, the committee feels it is absolutely essential to advertise and

to have money in the budget earmarked solely for advertising our programs. This would be money well spent. Those students and teachers who attend our quality programs rave about them, but we need to reach a bigger audience and to sell our product better. Again, ideas about how to make this happen would be much appreciated.

There is too much staff news to be covered completely in one report, so I will just highlight some of the notable events that have happened recently. We hosted the special unveiling of the Constellation Stamps and First Day Covers, as you can see from this program being passed around. I think Lance has the cancelled stamps.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

With more publicity, this event could have been even better attended as the stamps and the First Day Covers are very popular. Lorraine has received inquiries from collectors as far away as India. In January, as soon as the new stamps come out, the Post Office will do more events with us. I'm going to pass around a copy, and each person can keep one, of LIMA News. In it you will read about Lance explaining and demonstrating to other members of LIMA the process for creating a Living History Tour. As you know, our Living History Tour is much admired by other museums.

I have one copy of a thank you letter, which I will pass around. That's from Howard Kroplick for the loan of the Vanderbilt Cup memorabilia for the recent car exhibit at the Cradle of Aviation Museum.

I will also pass around a Newsday article. There are a lot of things to pass around. The Newsday article, in case you missed it, is about the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway and some plans for it to be part of a biking and hiking trail.

Florence was interviewed about our ship model exhibit in an article published in the Naval History Magazine. I just have one copy of this article, and I will pass that around. She was also featured in the Movers and Shakers Section of the Times of Northport. It's a great article, and there is one for everybody. There are a couple of other articles. One article is about Stephanie describing and explaining our mummy. There is one called, "Halloween in History." The other is about the successful debut of image cycling, thanks to the Vanderbilt Planetarium and Dave's creative programming. Again, there are copies for everyone, so take them home and read them when you have more time.

There are two handouts from Florence. One suggests the ways that museums can get involved in the AAM Centennial Celebration and how museums can participate. The other is a list of Legislators backing the recognition of the year of the museum. The first one is entitled, "A Hundred Ways to Get Involved." The second is, "Members of Congress Celebrate Museums."

As you can see, Florence and the rest of the staff have been very busy. She and Dave have backed up all the archives and added a link to the website that connects with the Living History Tours. This last handout is a list of materials Florence needs. I'm passing that list around so that any Trustee who has access to any of these needed items will have the opportunity to donate them to a person who would put them to good use.

We would like to give big thanks to Tony Pecorale who donated a huge box of supplies and a camera at our last committee meeting. Staff was very excited to receive the supplies, and Tony's generosity is very much appreciated.

Finally regarding staff accomplishments in general and since this is the last board meeting of 2005, I'd like to take a moment to compliment and thank staff and say it has been an honor to work with such highly knowledgeable, dedicated and resourceful people. These people in the education programs are really the heart and soul of the museum, without which we would not be fulfilling William K. Vanderbilt, II's, mission. Without them, none of his wonderful artifacts would be fully appreciated.

Just as an example, I'll refer to the newest member of the education staff, a young woman with impressive credentials that include being a Fulbright scholar and traveling the world in pursuit of her educational interests. Cristen taught a two-hour Marine Habitat Program that I attended along with a class of wildly enthusiastic third graders. Although I have seen the Hall of Fishes several times before, I have never seen it through the eyes of an expert who made everything come alive. The mansion used to be my favorite, but now I think because of Cristen's expertise, it's the Hall of Fishes. Besides my own personal enjoyment, the thing I will remember most about this experience is a little girl who asked Cristen how she could possibly know so much and how did she learn it. Cristen answered that she first got interested in marine biology and psychology by going to programs just like this. I think that says it all. That's the end of the report. Our next meeting is Monday, December 12 at 2 p.m. in Normandy Manor.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Susan.

MS. LEBOW:

May I ask you a couple of questions?

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

Sure.

MS. LEBOW:

What is this event board? Could we get some local art store or someone to donate it if we knew what it is that you have in mind?

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

Well, I have only my understanding of it. It would be a large board that people coming into the museum would be able to see things that are coming up.

MS. LEBOW:

Where would it be –

MS. FUHRMANN:

Can I help?

MS. LEBOW:

Sure.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Sue, when you drive passed a high school, have you ever noticed outside they have these boards that say report cards are coming out or when the next football game is –

MS. LEBOW:

That's what you want?

MS. FUHRMANN:

That's what we're talking about, something like that but probably smaller.

MS. LEBOW:

If we could find out who does that for the schools, we could find out if they would be willing to donate a smaller one.

MS. FUHRMANN:

They probably come in different sizes. We probably don't need anything as large as the schools but something along those lines. That's an event board.

MS. LEBOW:

Okay, my next question –

MS. FUHRMANN:

The modern ones are electronic and the older ones are not.

MS. LEBOW:

My next question, have we been sending flyers about our events to all local schools and all the senior citizen groups? Do they get regular notices of events that go on?

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

Yes.

MS. LEBOW:

What about giving to the members of the Board flyers about events that are coming up? Are we putting them in the places that we regularly patronize? We can hang them up someplace and get more exposure to the museum. Would that be a viable way of getting some advertising for the things that go on here?

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

It sounds like a good idea to me, if people are willing to do that.

MS. LEBOW:

It's a suggestion. Anywhere we go on a regular basis where they know us, it wouldn't be difficult to ask a favor of them.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

It sounds good.

MS. LEBOW:

Do you think we could do this as a program and provide this to the Trustees so that they could – I don't know whether you want to mail it to us, give it to us at a meeting, or –

MR. MALLAMO:

Sure, brochures, posters, whatever. If we distribute them at each Board meeting –

MS. LEBOW:

And then we would go out as ambassadors and put them in places that we regularly patronize. It could give the museum some exposure.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That was a wonderful report. Thank you. Finance Committee, Bert.

MR. SEIDES:

The Finance Committee met a week ago Monday here at Normandy Manor. We had in attendance our bookkeeper, our accountant, Michael, Steve, Lance, Gretchen, myself and our audit team, Robert and Valerie. We had a rather lengthy discussion about our upcoming audit. Rather than delay that issue now, I would like to request an executive session to continue that discussion so that we are all brought up to speed as to where we are with our audit. In my file I have a check history report. I would like to pass that around. Also in all of our folders, we have the Treasurer's Report. Please review it. If you have any questions or comments, please bring them forward.

DR. PECORALE:

I second the motion for executive session.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote 13/0/0/2 Absent: Mr. DeLuise & Ms. Gray.)** I'm going to say we do this now. Let's go right into it. Rather than have us leave, would you get a cup of coffee or whatever makes you comfortable and we will call you back in when we're done.

MR. MALLAMO:

Ann Marie, if we could just ask you to wait in your car.

MS. LEBOW:

There is no privacy here.

(Executive Session: 7:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

Michael was present during our executive session. We were also joined by our auditors. Can you just give your names and spelling, please?

MS. JONES:

Valerie Jones.

MR. TAYLOR:

Robert Taylor.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Obviously, I didn't know their last names or I could have spelled them, too. Real tough spelling. I knew Valerie and Rob but I didn't know their last names. It's a little embarrassing, but I'll survive.

For the moment, how would you like to move forward on the Finance Committee? We have received drafted audited statements tonight, approximately an hour and a half ago. They are not final statements. They are stamped preliminary for review and discussion subject to change. There is certain information that we seek to find out, and that is, number one, what options there are for us in terms of FASBE or GASBE. We hope to hear from the auditors next week as to their analysis. In the meantime, we will be researching the situation in terms of where we really fall. Are there questions that any Trustee would like to ask the auditors?

DR. PECORALE:

I don't have questions, but should we not also put into the record that if the final documents are available prior to our next meeting, that the Executive Board have the opportunity to finalize those and send them on to the Legislature?

DR. GITTELMAN:

If that's the Board's pleasure.

DR. PECORALE:

I'll put it on the record for discussion.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You're putting that forward as a resolution for discussion?

DR. PECORALE:

For discussion, yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

May I have a second?

DR. ROGERS:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Discussion?

MS. LEBOW:

My understanding of this is that we do not have a particular timeframe, so my recommendation would be that the entire Board get to review it before it gets sent off.

DR. PECORALE:

Can I speak to why I made the resolution? I was under the impression that there was a request from the Legislature for these documents and that there was some sort of a move that they would like to have them as soon as possible. Our next meeting won't be until January.

MR. MALLAMO:

This was requested several months ago. We have told everyone involved that we are working on

it and that we are changing auditors, and that there was going to be a delay.

DR. PECORALE:

Can we wait until January's meeting?

DR. ROGERS:

I can't imagine them being ready within the next three weeks.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can I suggest this? Let's move forward with our research, and if we find ourselves in a position where a group of whoever is discussing this feels that we have the information we need, we can communicate it to the Trustees in writing. Then if need be and if the timing is appropriate, and that includes the holidays and distance from the next meeting, we could schedule a meeting earlier in the year. I'm not going to say we'll have one at the end of December because I know that would not be convenient, but we might be able to schedule a special meeting, if that became necessary.

DR. PECORALE:

I'll withdraw the resolution.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is that okay?

DR. PECORALE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Does that mean it was satisfactory, or do we need a resolution to support that?

DR. ROGERS:

I think you need a resolution to call a special meeting if it's required.

MR. MALLAMO:

But we haven't established a schedule for 2006 yet. We could arrange that meeting tonight.

DR. ROGERS:

Is it possible that the Legislators are going to ask for this report in the next two weeks?

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's possible.

DR. ROGERS:

Therefore, you need the ammunition to be able to present something to them. Can the auditors present us with a report that the Executive Committee can reevaluate, if necessary, and present it to the Legislature. I think they should have the option to be able to do that.

MS. LEBOW:

May I make a point on this?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Sure.

MS. LEBOW:

We are going to have a new Executive Committee, right?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Board.

DR. PECORALE:

But it won't happen until after the January meeting.

MS. LEBOW:

Okay, then the people who serve now might not be – in addition to everything else, it was my understanding that there are some legal questions that we want edification on and that will play heavily on the whole decision.

DR. ROGERS:

But I think that we pretty well covered those. We all know what the questions are. Some of the answers may be right over here in the book, and if there has to be any changes made to the bylaws, I'm sure those changes can be made. What we have to do is make the changes to satisfy the auditors, so the auditors can make decisions.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think we have to make the changes to satisfy the code.

MS. LEBOW:

Yes, the code, and we may need a legal opinion, and that's going to take time, too.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It very well could.

DR. PECORALE:

Changing the code is going to require the Legislature to act.

MS. LEBOW:

No, we're not looking to change the code.

DR. PECORALE:

The bylaws, I don't think that's the final thing that's going to resolve this. I think we're going to have to look at the code. From what I understood with the readings of some of the items, it goes beyond just our bylaws.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It goes into the code. However, one of the things that we discovered in this process is that our bylaws, through some error, do not reflect the code. So once we understand the code, if we can reach that, then we can make a change in our bylaws. That process of changing bylaws requires certain notification.

DR. PECORALE:

That will lead us well passed January.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, that will put us well passed January.

MS. LEBOW:

That's right.

DR. PECORALE:

Do you feel the necessity to have authorization to act before our next Board meeting, should it become necessary? If you feel you do need that, I'm prepared to make such a motion, so that the Board can give that authority to the Executive Committee.

MR. OLIVIERI:

Why go through that right now. All we have to do is if there is that super need to do something like that, you call for a special meeting and that's it. We're done. Everyone will get the email notice, and we can get together. If not, we'll convene at the regular meeting, and we'll probably have another report on this financial statement.

DR. ROGERS:

The important thing here is that the auditors are going to give us a comparison of both FASBE and GASBE and we're supposed to evaluate that, and they are supposed to help us as to which is preferable for our use. Really the first thing here is to find out which we're going to use. The accountants are the only ones who can point that out to us, so we have a chance to evaluate this. My understanding is that sometime next week, they should be able to do that. In the first place, if what they have done up to this point is what we have to live with, then there is no necessity for any of this. If it turns out that we need FASBE or we need to get back to FASBE, then we have to move quickly. I think that the Executive Committee as a Board should have the authority to do that.

MS. LEBOW:

I'm confused because I thought I heard the possible need for a legal opinion as to the terminology and the interpretation of the terminology in the code and if that is needed.

MR. OLIVIERI:

What they said, Sue, is right now if they're going to GASBE, it's fine, it's over. If it's going toward FASBE, then they may want a different type of interpretation, or they may be able to be satisfied if the Board changes the bylaws.

MS. LEBOW:

But that's not going to happen in two weeks.

MR. OLIVIERI:

I understand that, but –

DR. GITTELMAN:

Well, we could get an interpretation of the code within two weeks. That's possible.

MS. LEBOW:

Then we're talking about the end of December. We haven't set the date for the January meeting. We could set the date, and we could deal with it early in January as a full Board.

MR. OLIVIERI:

I think that's basically what I was saying.

MS. LEBOW:

I know it was what you were saying.

MR. OLIVIERI:

If it's an emergency, we'll have a special meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You have all been very generous with your willingness to come to accelerate a meeting. If it turns out that we have an issue, I will email you and if we have to have a meeting, we will have a meeting, if that's what it comes down to. I have never had a Trustee – none of you have ever said, "We can't do this." We moved this meeting twice in order to accommodate the auditors. I think from the standpoint of what we're going to do is that we're both going to find out where we fall, FASBE or GASBE, and what does it mean.

From that standpoint, I think we can thank the auditors for joining us and move on. Is everyone agreeable to that? Okay, folks, thank you. If it's possible, we'd like to speak to you tomorrow.

MR. TAYLOR:

We'll follow up.

MS. JONES:

Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Bert, I know this was your committee report.

MR. SEIDES:

You did a fine job at that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is there anything you wish to add?

MR. SEIDES:

No, just that I would like the check history report to come back to me.

DR. PECORALE:

Question. Is there a reason why this month's disbursements seem considerably higher than normal?

MR. SEIDES:

That's a good question. There was more money in the account.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We did have money come in, so maybe we spent it.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, we had held off paying many bills for several months, and we're more caught up than we were.

DR. PECORALE:

It's just unusual.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is there anything else to add to your report? That was the longest committee report I ever remember.

MR. SEIDES:

No, that's it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Moving on to the Nominating Committee.

DR. PECORALE:

We had a number of meetings and a number of considerations. Our report is as follows. The Committee recommends the following slate of candidates for the 2006 year: President - Steven Gittelman; 1st Vice President - Daniel Olivieri; 2nd Vice President - Susan LeBow; Treasurer - Michael DeLuise; Secretary - David D'Orazio. I apologize for not getting back to people, but I was able to get to the final people today, and that happened about four o'clock. This was our committee report, and it will be considered at the January meeting according to our bylaws.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Those of you who are new to the program, in January that's when we hold our elections. The report from the Nominating Committee is not binding. There can be nominations from the floor for any office. If someone chooses to do so, they can do that in January at that time and then a ballot will be taken for each office. Okay, any questions?

Personnel Committee, Deborah Gray is absent.

MR. MALLAMO:

Carl, was there anything to report from the Personnel Committee that you're aware of? I was ill last week.

MR. LUECKE:

No, we did have a meeting but there was nothing to bring forward to the meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Directors Report. Well, first let me just say that Deborah Gray will not be on the Board next year. From what I understand, she is not being reappointed. Ron Parr has been appointed in her slot.

MS. LEBOW:

What was that name?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Ron Parr.

MS. LEBOW:

Is he an attorney?

DR. GITTELMAN:

No, he's a developer.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Parr Meadows.

MS. LEBOW:

Oh, that Parr. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

So Mr. Parr will be joining us, I hope, for the January meeting, which will be the first meeting that he is eligible to attend.

MS. FUHRMANN:

She gets a fish.

DR. GITTELMAN:

She certainly deserves a fish. We should thank her for her fine performance. I invite her back to receive her fish.

DR. PECORALE:

I did speak to Donna about her fish. Donna indicated that she would be available early in the new year to come to one of our meetings.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We would like to have her. That would be nice.

MR. KLEINBERG:

Can I ask a naïve question?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Sure.

MR. KLEINBERG:

What's a fish?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Mr. Vanderbilt had an artist named William Belanski. What happened is that when a fish was taken out of the water while Mr. Vanderbilt was on one of his voyages, Belanski would paint the fish in its like colors at that time. The original paintings, which I believe are watercolors, are in the American Museum of Natural History. The prints from those watercolors were used in a combination of publications. Vanderbilt used some of them for his technical publications and some of them for his books about his travels. If you go around the museum and you will see very beautifully colored fish, because Belanski was a naturalist, an artist, and a curator. That's what a fish is. The tradition is, when a Trustee leaves after serving a full term, they are entitled to a fish.

MS. FUHRMANN:

They get it framed and mounted.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's rather nice.

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's very nice.

MR. KLEINBERG:

So it's no ordinary flounder.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's not ordinary flounder, but I do believe the flounder was painted.

MR. MALLAMO:

I think so, yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

However, we will try to have one that you can see. They are really very beautiful. We do not give out anything that Mr. Vanderbilt ever had. Not to disappoint you, but they are reprints.

DR. PECORALE:

You noted that he was originally with the Museum of Natural History in New York City. Vanderbilt stole him away and the Museum of Natural History was very upset about that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Willie had a way of making them feel better when he became a member of the Board of Trustees and a major contributor. There are balances in life. Directors Report, Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:

If you will notice in your packet, I received new correspondence on Monday from the Internal Revenue Service concerning our pension plan. Mr. Rubin, our attorney, who is representing us in this matter, had given me a heads-up to expect this last week. Apparently, the plan that we reaffirmed in September of 2004 still needs a couple of amendments to be in compliance. The IRS agent has sent a draft of what needs to be added to the plan. We will need a resolution to incorporate these amendments.

Number one would be that even though the plan never had a defined benefit plan, the following language should be included in Section 4.8, that's IRC, and would read as follows:

IRC, Section 415, C1(a), defined contribution plan dollar limitation effective for limitation years beginning after December 31, 1994 for a plan that is required to have the limitation of IRC Section 415, C1 is amended to change the IRC Section 415 C1(a) language to read as follows: \$30,000 as adjusted under IRC Section 415 Section (d). This would be added again to Section 4.8 of our plan.

We also must add a definition of a leased employee and a definition of a highly compensated employee. That sample language is included in your packet here. It's quite lengthy, so I can make this an addition to the minutes.

We also have to have a clarifying amendment to indicate that the plan was effective August 1, 1990, not July 1, 1997, as stated in Section 21. I researched this today, and actually our plan

was effective on January 1, 1990, which would meet the provision that it was in effect on August 1, 1990. That's what our minutes reflect here at the museum. That's what I suggest we amend Section 2.1 to read.

We also have to send a new Form 2848 signed by two other powers of attorney. Those are the amendments that the IRS would like to see made by December 9, 2005. It was very fortunate we are having a meeting tonight. If someone would care to make a motion incorporating these changes to our plan, we're prepared to make them.

MR. MACCHIONE:

I'll make the motion to incorporate the changes.

MS. LEBOW:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is there any discussion?

MR. KLEINBERG:

Does the attorney for the pension plan endorse these changes?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

DR. PECORALE:

Who are the other two powers of attorney?

MR. MALLAMO:

That's what I have to find out. I was actually trying to find that out today. I believe we added two other members of the Executive Committee meeting – of the Executive Committee earlier this year.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Board.

MR. MALLAMO:

Executive Board. I can't confirm that with TIAA CREF. They have to investigate what they have down.

DR. PECORALE:

Two Trustees.

MR. MALLAMO:

It is two Trustees, as far as I know.

DR. PECORALE:

Fine.

MR. MALLAMO:

As soon as I find out who that is, we will have that form executed and prepared.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Motion carries unanimously. (Vote: 13/0/0/2 Absent: Mr. DeLuise & Ms. Gray.)**

Is that your report?

MR. MALLAMO:

I just wanted to add that we had on November 17 representatives from four other Vanderbilt Museums around the country come here to Centerport. We had two representatives from Biltmore Estate at Ashville, North Carolina, a curator from the Frederick Mansion in Hyde Park, New York, a curator from Newport Mansion in Newport Rhode Island, and a curator from Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, Vermont. They came here and spent the day, for a full day, here at the museum. They learned about our museum and took a full tour. They gave the staff a presentation on their museums, which was very, very informative. It was a really wonderful day. They were here from eight in the morning until late at night. We have agreed that we're going to do this annually, going to the different museums. I know we all learned a lot that day. One of the curators from Newport knew who did all of our hinges and hardware in the mansion. He recognized pieces that had originally been in Marble House and they are now here at the Vanderbilt. We noticed things in his collection that related to us. It was a very productive day. We are glad we initiated that contact. Actually, Todd had put this together. It was Todd's idea several years ago to put this together. He initiated it and made the contacts. They were thrilled, and I know the staff was thrilled. It was a very positive experience for all of us. That's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

My report, we ran into a bit of a problem on capital projects. We had four capital projects that were laid on the table and prepared for review by the Legislature. They were initially presented by the County Executive. All four of the projects were pulled. They included the waterfront, the facades, the ADA compliance, and Normandy Manor projects. The pulling of the projects came as somewhat of a surprise. I had a few days of discussions with various members on the 12th floor and found that they had pulled back quite a few projects. They were doing that so that they could allocate funds, perhaps, to pay for the now required County jail.

At this juncture, two of the projects, the waterfront and the ADA compliance, have been placed back for consideration this year. Discussions today, there is the possibility that the remaining two, or at least one of the remaining two could be placed back with Certificates of Necessity, at least we hope and we pray that they will be placed back for consideration during this calendar year at the next Legislative meeting. You can expect Lance and I to be there to be lobbying for just that, to get them back in. We have had very good communication with the County Executive's Office. This is not something that was targeted at us. This is something where they just had to come up with perhaps \$72 million for a state mandated County jail. They pulled back all their projects. The word that I heard today was that they were not trying to make it on the backs of little projects. That's encouraging news because these are the projects that in their minds are little. To us they're huge, but in their minds they're little. So that will be coming up.

As I mentioned, we had our endowment approved. It was really, mercifully a non-event. It was

approved unanimously. The only question was, is this new? No, it's not new. The only thing new is the date. Lance handled the questions, and I think it was under 30 seconds. I don't remember that ever happening before. Usually it's a wrestling match, but it certainly appears that getting the issue of the basis, the \$8.2 million basis, clearly is what has paved the way for the endowment. They now understand what the deal is. They understand what is legally permitted. I was very encouraged to see that. I have had a number of overtures, and I have spoken to quite a few Legislators and so has Lance. I pray that we continue to have a good relationship with the Legislature in the new year. I believe that we will. I think we have a good relationship with the County Executive. I know that they think we are doing a fine job, at least that's what they say. Maybe we should be thankful for the relationships that we have.

I know that I am grateful for all of you. I look around the room and see 13 Trustees. The attendance of Trustees has been stupendous for the most part. We have usually one or two absences at any given meeting. I just need to tell you all that I appreciate the efforts you have made this past year. I wish you all a happy new year and a wonderful holiday season. I look forward to being colleagues with you next year. That would be my report.

MS. LEBOW:

Is there new business?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Tony?

DR. PECORALE:

I heard Dan was able to acquire some funding for us.

MR. OLIVIERI:

Did it come in?

MR. MALLAMO:

It's going to be hand delivered tomorrow.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Dan, why don't you tell us about this?

MR. OLIVIERI:

Key Span was – we have that \$5,700 credit with Key Span. We're not eligible because we don't have all our buildings on line. What happened was they invested \$200,000 to run the gas line from down the road up here. They put in all the meters. They're not hooked up to any of the gas furnaces because they don't exist except for the three buildings and the tent. So we were to talk to Key Span and get them to release some money up front. They were able to pro-rate it \$11,000. What we're going to do now is I'm working with Lance. We're going to have the Key Span Foundation actually make up the difference some time in the near future, we hope, on the balance of the \$57,000. It will be something like \$46,000. We'll get our money accelerated. I don't know when we're ever going to get these gas furnaces put into all these buildings. The next thing we're going to do is we're hoping Key Span is going to take a look with some of their foundation people, and they can walk them through the mansion to downstairs where the ovens are and the gas stoves and the generator, as well as the big plant and see if we can get them to put together for us an exhibit where people can be walking through with the power and the explanation of the days that Vanderbilt was here and hopefully get a little money every year

toward this as a regular cash flow for us. I'm going to be working with Key Span and Lance on that one. That's what we're doing with that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Not only did you find the lions, but you're –

MR. OLIVIERI:

I'm not done with the lions yet. We still have to figure that out. We have to get communication going with her. Some of the stuff that we were talking with Lance about, some of these other connections we have with big corporations, maybe we can get them to come in here, refurbish a few little areas, get their names up there. We have the planetarium, but we still have Northrop Grumman hanging around here. We've got stuff with the space exhibit. Maybe they can come and refurbish it a bit and get their name up there and see what we can come up with. It's the money every year. That's some of the stuff we were just talking about, but that's a little premature right now.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I did hear from Key Span today that they are going to hand deliver the check here tomorrow. It will be very helpful.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What about the \$10,000?

MR. MALLAMO:

We did get the \$10,000 from Bank of America.

DR. GITTELMAN:

And you're applying for how much more?

MR. MALLAMO:

From Bank of America?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, how much have they sent you?

MR. MALLAMO:

We have fifteen from them all together. We got five and then we got ten.

DR. GITTELMAN:

There's another \$2,500.

DR. PECORALE:

The other thing that I heard was that Senator Flanagan indicated that he might be able to do something for us.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, we received notification of an award from his office for a \$15,000 grant for the replacement of the observatory telescope. I'm just waiting to get the contract on that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I was with him Saturday night.

DR. PECORALE:

I heard that he has asked for a proposal from us. Is that correct?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, we did send him a proposal, and that was it. We did get it.

DR. PECORALE:

The reason why I bring it up is because one of the things that works well with State Legislators who are in the majority party of their particular house is they generally get a sum of money for distribution within the region where they are the Legislator. Certainly, we are in Senator Flanagan's Legislative District. I don't happen to live in his Legislative District, but anybody who does, a little phone call might help.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I was with him Saturday night. It just turned out that we were up in Rochester and met at the Eastern Theater by accident. I got a very comfortable feeling from him in my discussions. I think that he could be approached very easily. He attends events here regularly.

DR. PECORALE:

I did get the impression that he was looking for something for a project.

MR. MALLAMO:

I can just tell you, Tony, we submitted the proposal on the last day it was due, and we got it. I think he bent over backwards to get it because I'm sure there were plenty of things in line ahead of him. We will work on a new one. This all happened in the past six weeks. I think I had sent an email out about getting that award for the telescope for \$15,000.

DR. PECORALE:

One last thing I just wanted to inform the Board about is that I did make contact with people at the State Education Department. This museum is accredited with the State Education Department. Therefore, this museum does have the authority to have educational programs that could be utilized, if the school districts would allow it, for in-service and staff development programs for the school districts. I know that it's something that would be of great help to the museum.

The last thing was that the Dean from the College of St. Rose will come in in January when she comes down from Albany for her visit on the Island to possibly see whether or not the museum could be one of the sites for the location of classes. The person would bring in some money. The second thing is I think it would open us up to a lot of people who have probably never been to the museum, people who work in New York City who actually live on the Island who probably have never been here.

MR. LUECKE:

What can we do to make that happen? That would be an important source of revenue to us.

MR. MALLAMO:

I think we have to put our best foot forward. They were here once. I think we really have to roll out the red carpet when the Dean comes down.

DR. PECORALE:

My last thing is, have we had any more contacts with the possibility of bringing in a caterer?

MR. MALLAMO:

That's the \$64,000 question.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We ought to put that down for all future meetings that we're going to have.

MR. MALLAMO:

I actually have a meeting tomorrow morning at nine o'clock with DPW on the plumbing project, which is where that grease trap component is.

MR. OLIVIERI:

Bring them over to the furnaces and stuff. Maybe we'll get some new heaters out of it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Have the meeting in the planetarium.

MR. MALLAMO:

They are coming on that project and the security project, but they're going to stay for a couple of others as well.

MR. LUECKE:

The time chart in terms of the caterer was that we had drafted specs, but we can't send them out because we had to have certain improvements made.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right, there is a grease trap. That's included in the plumbing project.

MR. LUECKE:

And they are coming to see –

MR. MALLAMO:

And the plumbing project is underway right now. They have demolished the bathrooms in the mansion. Those are being rebuilt right now.

MR. LUECKE:

Once we send out the specifications, it will take a while to get the responses. If we know we're going to have the proper improvements, we send out the specs now.

MR. MALLAMO:

I'll request that. I think that's a good idea. The County sends them out but I could request it since it is a project that's going to be done. I don't see any reason why we couldn't concurrently send that RFP out.

MR. LUECKE:

I would think it would take awhile for the decision to be made.

MR. MALLAMO:

It really does look like we're at the point that that tent will be able to be moved next summer. The walkway should be in. The bathroom should be in. The doorway should be in, and we should have a good operation there.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Susan, did you have new business?

MS. LEBOW:

Are we going to agree on dates for the meetings for next year?

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have been meeting the third Wednesday of every month. I'd like to know if that continues to be acceptable.

DR. ROGERS:

I think it worked.

MR. MACCHIONE:

I think it worked out really good this year. It shows by the attendance.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Attendance has been good.

MR. MALLAMO:

That would be January 18.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Does that fall close to any holiday weekend?

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's two days after Martin Luther King Day.

MR. MALLAMO:

Martin Luther King Day is the Monday.

MS. FUHRMANN:

That's not a biggie.

DR. GITTELMAN:

There is a week in February, which the schools are closed. Can we not have the meeting during that week?

MS. FUHRMANN:

It wouldn't be. The 15th would be the third Wednesday. It's the day after Valentine's Day. That's not the week that the schools are closed.

MR. MALLAMO:

The schools are closed the following week.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I think they're closed the week of the 20th.

MR. MALLAMO:

I believe so, yes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Because that's President's Week.

DR. PECORALE:

That's also a good week here at the museum.

MS. FUHRMANN:

We have a lot of traffic that week.

DR. PECORALE:

We really don't want to have it that week.

MS. LEBOW:

I think as you pointed out, Bill, the reason we have had great attendance is because you can plan your calendar ahead. When we used to move them from time to time it became a problem.

MR. MALLAMO:

Actually, that third Wednesday across the board looks good.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have managed to settle January and February. Let's consider ourselves lucky and go home.

MR. OLIVIERI:

Can I just mention one more thing?

DR. GITTELMAN:

The laser.

MR. MALLAMO:

I can tell you this much on the laser. We're continuing to have problems with the laser equipment. The equipment was brought to Connecticut today. I should have an evaluation from them on what the situation is going to be within two days.

MR. OLIVIERI:

David did some good stuff on his own. Let him tell you.

MR. D'ORAZIO:

After inquiring and not getting an answer from the person who tested the laser, and we did request an answer from him, obviously court action has been taken without our notification, but I

looked into a company in California that specializes in that type of equipment. They have parts for that brand laser. And they were going to move forward working with them, but now that the laser has been moved to a different location, it's a bit of a moot point. In reading the rest of this, I think it's important before we move forward and having it repaired that we discuss this further as far as what we're going to do. This company may be able to do it cheaper and maybe streamline the job.

MR. MALLAMO:

I haven't authorized to do anything other than give an initial look at the thing and give us an estimate as far as what's going to be involved.

MR. D'ORAZIO:

It's been a long time coming, and we need somebody who knows this equipment to fix this equipment and put us back on line to make some revenue.

MR. MALLAMO:

Who did you speak to in California?

MR. D'ORAZIO:

I have the folder at home. They specialize in this particular type of stuff. They have spare parts. They seemed very knowledgeable on this. If we can find out what's going on with it, we can move forward from there. Before we make any decisions, I think we should talk about cost effectiveness and what maybe the other companies can do.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Lance, wasn't the company that used to work on the laser from California?

MR. MALLAMO:

The company that I have always dealt with was in Massachusetts.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We did deal with a company in California at one point.

MS. FUHRMANN:

We did. We used to deal with a company in California.

MR. MALLAMO:

That wasn't during my tenure.

MS. FUHRMANN:

It might have been when Alison was here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a motion to adjourn?

MS. LEBOW:

Motion to adjourn.

MR. MACCHIONE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **We stand adjourned. (13/0/0/2 Absent: Mr. DeLuise & Ms. Gray.)**

(Dr. Steve Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.)

SG:ap

Attachments