

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on December 20, 2006, in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President
Michael B. DeLuise - Treasurer
Marjorie Kossoy-Fuhrmann - Trustee
Carl Luecke - Trustee
William Macchione - Trustee
Gretchen Oldrin-Mones - Trustee
Ronald Parr - Trustee
Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Trustee
Matthew W. Swinson - Trustee
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director
Carol Hart - Director of Special Projects
Mitchell Spivak - Staff
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Absent:

David D'Orazio - Secretary
Maria Figalora - Trustee
Howard Kleinberg - Trustee
Daniel Olivieri - 1st Vice President

Excused Absence:

Susan LeBow - 2nd Vice President

(Dr. Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

This is a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. We have Carol Hart with us tonight. Are there any comments or questions about anything you would like to say to us, Carol?

MS. HART:

No, not at the moment.

DR. GITTELMAN:

May we have approval of the minutes from the previous meeting?

MR. DELUISE:

Motion.

MR. MACCHIONE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are there any changes? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 9/0/1/5 Abstention: Ms. Fuhrmann. Not Present: Ms. LeBow, Mr. D'Orazio, Ms Figalora & Mr. Kleinberg)** Public Relations Report, Todd Shapiro isn't here.

MR. MALLAMO:

Todd isn't here tonight, but we are gearing up for our Arrow open house next week. We had a very good interview with Ken Grimbald of News 12 with myself and executives from Arrow that played on News 12 last week. I don't have the tape yet, but it was on all day last Tuesday. That was a great spot, and I think we're going to get a good response for Arrow Week.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, is that your report?

MR. MALLAMO:

That's the report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are there any questions? If there aren't any, we'll go to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Bill.

MR. MACCHIONE:

I was unable to meet with Bill Dieck so I really don't have a complete report to give tonight.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, are there any questions for Bill?

MR. MALLAMO:

One thing that Bill doesn't even know about and I didn't know about until today, is that the contractor from the firm planning the waterfront was here today doing soil test borings. That's a good sign that that project is moving ahead.

MR. MACCHIONE:

Is this a general contractor?

MR. MALLAMO:

It's the design contractor.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Development Committee, David D'Orazio is not here tonight. Is there a report?

MR. MALLAMO:

I don't have a report, but what we can substitute for a report, is that you have in your packets a calendar of events that Carol and I have developed for 2007. These are events or activities that will involve the Development Committee. These are not all the events we're doing at the museum, but these are the ones that will be fundraising events or that have the potential to generate significant income for the museum during the year. We're trying to get this calendar in place by January 1, so that we can get things on our

website and get our documents prepared for the entire year. We'll have a calendar month by month, which will list every single activity that's occurring every day at every location. But this is the general one we wanted the Trustees to see for the different activities that we've been planning.

We're going to do a Valentine Show here in the Planetarium on February 10. February 17th to 25th we will have the Winter Fun Fest, which was so successful last year. We have already begun planning that event, and we're hoping to make it better than last year's.

March 31st to April 10th we'll have the Spring Fun Fest. We're trying to have one fundraiser each month over the warm season beginning with the "Blue Jean Ball" on May 19th and the Gatsby Gala – and this will not be the gala as we know it. This will be more moderately priced between \$50 and \$60 that many people have been requested who went to a similar event that was here many years ago. That will be June 15th.

July and August, we're talking with St. George Productions to put on a 1930's/40's musical review called "Hellzapoppin." That was a very popular show during that time period of the same name. We're trying to recreate that as a Saturday and Sunday afternoon tea and brunch.

On July 14th we're going to have a Pink Flamingo Beach Party. This is a family afternoon event, and it's going to have a 50's retro theme.

August 3rd we're going to have "Latin Night with Alex Torres." This is a Latin band that provides an educational experience for children as well as adults. We'll have dance lessons. It's going to be a very hot time at the Vanderbilt that night.

On the 29th will be our major fundraiser, the "Night at El Morocco," which we hope to recreate in the tent. October 27th through November 11th we'll be having the Fall Fun Fest. November 17th to December 30th we're going to reinstate the Holiday Radio Review. We did not do that this year because of the way the holidays lined up this year and different activities that we had. It really didn't fit in with our schedule, but we will be doing that again next year. On December 1st of next year we'll have our holiday dinner in the mansion. This year we had it two nights. We had one dinner on a Thursday and two on a Friday. But next year because Chanukah does not conflict with

that date, we'll be doing it one evening. We will be having three dinners in the one night. The following day we'll have our tree lighting in the courtyard.

Then what's not on here, but you should know about, is on December 9th we'll have our volunteer party for our volunteers. We did that this year, and it was very successful. Maria Figalora, who is not here tonight, represented the Trustees and did an excellent job. That's our calendar. If you have any questions, I'm sure I can try to answer them.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions? Education and Exhibits, Gretchen.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

We have had some good media exposure, so perhaps you have seen or heard about some of the exciting things going on here at the Vanderbilt. We have a four by eight sign up on Route 25A. We have had ads in the *Long Island Press*, and we've been featured in local newspapers and, as Lance said, on Channel 12, who ran a piece on the mansion and the upcoming holiday open house, which is generously sponsored by Arrow Electronics of Melville.

Details of this free-to-the-public event are on our website and in the attractive brochure that you have in your folder. The brochure will facilitate visitors touring the mansion, which has been decorated to highlight the holiday season of 1936.

Many of the clubs and volunteers who helped make the mansion and grounds ready for this holiday season are mentioned in the brochure. These two articles by Elise Pearlman in the *Northport Times* also mentions the volunteers.

In the December 14th article there is mention of the lavish and intriguing progressive dinner, which recently took place and was a big success. I heard it ran like clockwork and that Lance was an outstanding bartender.

I also heard that the party for our volunteers was very nicely done, and I'd like to thank Maria for attending and for speaking. A schedule of planetarium and laser shows, as well as contact information is on the back of the brochure.

On December 17th we hosted a special holiday open house for 300 Arrow employees, and it was a total success. We expect large crowds for the official open house event, which will start this Friday. It's hoped many who are here for the open house will be attracted to the membership tables where giveaways provided by Arrow will be available.

Staff is anticipating and actively planning the February break program. Some popular activities from last year's very successful Fun Fest will be repeated this year, and some new ideas are being explored.

Some new activities under consideration are an ice sculpting contest, ice skating, entertainment by a magician, live music, go-cart racing, a professional storyteller and people in costumes impersonating presidents. Naturally we welcome additional ideas the trustees might want to suggest. We are also looking at ideas for the new programs for next year. Again we welcome Trustee input. Tony has been working with CITE and the College of Saint Rose to use the Vanderbilt as a place where Saturday and Sunday classes would be given to teachers. CITE considers it a problem that we are out of the way, and they think that people from New York City may feel it's too far to travel.

To measure the extent of these possible drawbacks and to see if people would actually come, CITE has proposed the following: They would be willing to donate \$5,000 to the museum for a special day sometime during the spring recess when their people could come to the Vanderbilt and experience our campus and the special programs, tours, and refreshments that would be provided for them. It's thought that if CITE could open a center here it could bring in \$50,000 a year in fees to us. They would need three to five classrooms on Saturday and Sunday. The usual class size is between 20 and 25 people. The classes, which are in reading, administration and guidance, run about five weeks.

There are pros and cons to having CITE use our facilities. The positives are they bring in all kinds of equipment, such as DVD's, Proximas and TV's. Traditionally they have an open house for their students. Students would be more apt to come back to the museum for programs and for events. The negatives are they will need parking, which is not a problem unless there is a wedding. Classes go from 8:30 to 3:30 for five weekends. This might interfere with birthday parties. They bring their lunches so garbage would have to be attended to. I would like to thank Tony for his ongoing efforts to

make this deal happen and also for donating a computer and some other materials.

Florence and staff are working on next year's Living History Tour, which will be 1938. That was a fun and exciting year when lots of great movies debuted. One idea is to have a movie night showing some 1938 films.

In the planetarium there is good and bad news. The really horrible news is that the laser projector died. Since it might have been due to an electrical surge, we're pursuing a claim with the insurance company to replace the equipment. The good news is that Dave is constantly developing new programs and researching new equipment that would make us more accessible to more people. He took a small field trip to Peekskill to check out their E-Planetarium Go-Dome and Mirror-Dome Projection system. Dave feels this would be an invaluable addition. It could be used when renovations are being done in the planetarium. It could be used for outreach programs. It could be used in the seaplane hangar to create a full dome media environment. It could also be used as a promotional display in the mall. It comes with ten high quality video shows in several curriculum areas. The cost is about \$65,000 total for everything, which might be able to be covered by a grant. These brochures, which I will pass around, will give you an idea of what he's talking about.

Regarding programs, Dave has updated everything to reflect the new planet configuration. He is working on a Boy Scout group merit badge in astronomy program. He also hopes to have artists display their work on the planet walls as they did last year. He is working on a new program entitled "One Small Step," which he would like to have installed by the spring. He is developing a hands-on workshop planetarium program where participants would develop a craft to take home.

Beth announced that the new Winter Workshop Programs will be posted on the website. These flyers will be mailed out. Please take how ever many you can use.

Two of our educators, Gabriella and Paul, were photographed at Museum Day at the William Floyd Learning Center. You can see their photo on this page, which I will pass around.

Stephanie reports that things are going well in the habitat. Electrical

problems are being solved, and restoration should start soon. Many people think of the habitat as the most memorable experience we offer. It's exciting to think that it will be restored and once again be available to the public.

News from Cornell is good. Jackie and Eric have communicated and coordinated their schedules nicely and have been able to accommodate special projects in their shared room.

Please take a copy or more of the Cornell programs for the upcoming school breaks. Matt Sclafani is going to facilitate getting interns from CW Post for the spring and the summer. Florence also has been approached by a possible intern.

Finally, Florence reports that Al Velocci researched the Suffolk County Records of Deeds and found details on when, how and from whom Vanderbilt acquired the property in three separate real estate transactions from 1910 to 1927 for Eagle's Nest Estate. This is the last handout that I'll pass around. This information has been added to our reference file on the history of the estate.

That is the end of the report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's a great report. Any questions? Thank you. Finance Committee, Michael DeLuise.

MR. DELUISE:

The Treasurer's Report is in your packets. Although we don't have the November numbers in yet, I am told that we're going to do much better than we thought we would be doing. We have \$25,000 that Arrow has paid for for sponsorship coming up for this month, which should put us in a much better position. We're receiving \$10,000 from the Bank of America. We also have received our \$9,000 tax refund. The deficit at the bottom right now projected could be as little or around \$50,000. We're doing better than we thought. Lance promises us that we're going to do even better than that.

I think as Trustees one of our roles – our role being assigned as a Trustee – is that we're put here to kind of polish and nurture this jewel, the museum, which is such an important thing for the citizens in the community of Suffolk County. One of the things we can do to help these numbers, and we talked

about this a little bit before in some of our committee meetings, is to find other sources or sponsorships and other ways that revenue can be brought in here, so we don't have to rely on the endowment. We don't have to rely on whether the weather is good or not. We can keep this resource open and polished and beautiful and shining for our community. I think we are doing that. Lance, I want to thank you for that. I think in your report you'll talk a little bit about some wonderful things that some of our Legislators have done for us, Bill Lindsay and some people. What's really nice is that everybody does seem to be working together to make this the best possible museum it can be.

Lance, did you want to also talk about an update on the 2005 financial statement?

MR. MALLAMO:

I can say that all the field work is done, and I expect the first draft soon after the new year. They have been here for several weeks gathering the information. It went a lot smoother than it did last year. This went very, very well and I expect that we should have something by our next meeting.

MR. DELUISE:

Thank you. That's the end of my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, thank you for that report. Any questions? We'll move on to the Nominating Committee.

MR. LUECKE:

I'll do that. We met and proposed the following slate: For President, Steve Gittelman. I don't have to mention that his diligence, hard work, tenacity and successfully getting the Legislature to look at the Vanderbilt and help with the resources. It's been very time consuming. He's just done an excellent job. He is who we would propose again for the President.

For the 1st Vice President is Dan Olivieri, who helped obtain money from utilities. He's helped raise our visibility with corporations.

For 2nd Vice President, Gretchen, who we could listen to the fact that she's well organized, very hard working, and will serve us well as the 2nd Vice

President.

As Treasurer, Mike DeLuise, who has been very helpful in fundraising and as Treasurer. We would just ask him to keep up the good work. The Treasurer is a very, very important job. It's often thought of, next to the President, the most important job. There is a lot on the plate there.

In terms of Secretary, David D'Orazio, who almost single handedly put us back on the right track in terms of fundraising. He spent a lot of time and effort, which we all have to appreciate. That would be the proposed slate.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. In the meeting that we vote, which could either be the January or February meeting -- I want to discuss something with you. You can nominate others from the floor if you feel that that particular slate is not appealing to you. It will be open for a vote for additional nominees. Thank you and the committee for your hard work. I appreciate it very much.

Director's Report, Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's been a very busy time but a very productive time here at the museum. I'm pleased to bring you up to date on something. Gretchen mentioned the habitat. Mike DeLuise was also involved in this. I'm very grateful to him to making that connection with the Electrical Workers Local 25. We had a major problem with the habitat with the electrical system down there. I actually have never seen the room lit since I've worked here for nine years because the electric has had problems for many years. When we rewired the mansion about four years ago, they were unable to get that area relit and abandoned trying, although it was scheduled. They couldn't get the old wiring out, and the passage way that went into the habitat was so jammed with old wires, they couldn't get new wires in, so it was a major problem. As recently as a month ago or six weeks ago, DPW was at a loss for how they were going to bring this about. I discussed this with Michael over breakfast one morning, and we had the thought that maybe we could get some electrical workers involved because we didn't have the funds to commit from the museum, and we didn't have a capital project to work with that. I guess you mentioned it to Legislator Lindsay who –

MR. DELUISE:

He was wonderful, absolutely spectacular and introduced us to Don Fiori of Local 25. He brought two of his colleagues over who were two of the nicest, most wonderful people. They weren't asking for anything at all in return, not even recognition. They just really want to help the community and also want to introduce us to some other people like painters. It was wonderful.

MR. MALLAMO:

And the good news is we were able to bring back for a two day exploratory project the electrician who had rewired the mansion four years ago, a young man named Tim Piro. He was able to come back. He was able to get two circuits in. By using a different type of bulb and abandoning the old system, he was able to relight the entire habitat, the floor and the cases at a very low wattage using very low wattage florescent lights and abandoning the incandescent that had been in there, so our electrical problems are well underway to being fixed. The contact that we made, we're going to be able to introduce some new lighting in there as well to focus on the whaleshark and some of the other dioramas. That was a major stumbling block to that project, and we were delighted to have them involved. I know, Bill, with your carpenters, maybe we can get some painters as well, so we're really going to get this thing wrapped up and finished and have a great room. I was just blown away by the beauty of those dioramas when you really see them lit from the inside. Thank you for your help in making that happen, Mike.

MR. DELUISE:

You're welcome, and thank everybody for working on this. It's really great.

MR. MALLAMO:

Another project we have been able to initiate in the past month, I don't know if you noticed on the way in, is new signage. We never had good signage, and we needed signs in a number of places, so we have just completed phase one of our signage program. This was done at a very low cost using in-house museum staff, labor and a commercial sign company for under \$1,300. We got phase one finished up. I say, it's a huge improvement in getting people around the museum and providing the professional look that we want and one that I feel fits in very well with our attempt to brand the museum.

We're also working on a new program, Carol Hart and I, to develop a new

level of corporate membership. This would involve proposals to corporate members and a package of benefits that may enable them to have their employees have free admission at the museum and possibly have a dinner in the mansion. We did have a dinner last Saturday night for the winner of the auction at the gala. That dinner was very, very successful and I think an incredible opportunity to provide revenue for the museum in a very appropriate and well set up facility. We took a lot of time making sure that the room was protected. There were no problems during that event. The people that came were just in awe and had a wonderful time and called me yesterday and hoped that they could do it again next year. They said, "At the same price," and I said, "I don't think so. We'll talk about that." But I think we could raise that price and that may be another benefit that we could extend to corporations.

We did take photographs of it and hopefully we can put some of them on our website to show people what it really looked like. It was just a beautiful venue for an event like that, and one that was very respectful of the room.

As Steve indicated, our capital projects went through yesterday. We had very good support in the Legislature, but I just wanted to let Bill Rogers know that the waterfront project had the best support. Some Legislators had issues with one project or the other, but everybody seemed to agree that the waterfront was our big priority, and I think they responded very well to Steve's message on how crucial this is for the museum to move forward into the 21st Century. I think they clearly got that and clearly their votes showed that.

That's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions? Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

When I was a sixth grade teacher, and I'm not going to tell you what year that was, I used to bring my classes here to the museum. The habitat was always the highlight. The kids, when we'd get back to school, just couldn't believe it. I have to tell you that I think that the sooner we can get that habitat back, I think that we will have a true renaissance in this museum.

MR. MALLAMO:

Tony, I'm glad you brought that up again, because what I didn't say and I will take this opportunity to say it is one of the issues that had slowed us up with the habitat was the flooring. We have a beautiful glass floor. There were lighting fixtures underneath that were the original that Mr. Vanderbilt had installed that featured a blue lens in which the light would be projected through this lens laterally across the floor from each side. You just have the feeling that you're floating when you step on this. That had been abandoned in place I don't know how many years ago, perhaps 20 or 30, and regular florescent lights painted blue were put in their place. It never really had the same feel. I knew that because I had come here as a child. I wasn't in your six grade class, but I did come here as a sixth grader. I remember the floor more than I really remember the dioramas, to be very honest.

This new system that we've developed is using the original Vanderbilt fixtures. To really demonstrate that, the electrician left one of the old florescent and this new bulb we're using in the Vanderbilt fixture, and there is just no comparison. It's a vivid, bright, vibrant blue, rather than this washed out gray that it was before. I know it's going to have that impact, and I'm delighted that we're going to be able to reuse these fixtures. It's going to be a safer facility for the building, and it's going to be safer for the collections within the habitat. It took us a little while to figure this out, but I think it was definitely worth the wait. Now we'll really be able to get that taxidermy project going.

The County has committed. They have signed contracts to redo the ceiling and to enclose the piping. So we're really looking forward to getting this underway. Thank you for bringing that up. I should have mentioned that as part of my report, this whole flooring issue.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions? I sneak into the habitat every once in a while, and I bring a light and I stare around. To me, it's the best space we've got. It's like a magical place. Marge?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I was just going to concur when I was asked a little over a dozen years ago why I wanted to be Trustee, all I talked about was the habitat. It's what I remember best from when I was a child. My parents used to bring me up here, never mind school trips. We used to just sit down there.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's a good reason for people to come back. It's a wonderful place. I'm really looking forward to that.

As far as my report, I am extremely grateful to the Legislature for having put through our capital projects. I think that it took a tremendous amount of – they obviously believe in what we're doing. It's a tremendous compliment. I feel very good about it. I think the worst that we had was 16 – 2.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's a show of commitment from the County Executive. It's good to know that we have a County Executive that believes in us. When I was there, when I was speaking to them, they read our minutes. They know about our museum. They know about our board. They know about you. They ask me about individuals. I say it's a unified group; we're all together. I had nothing but glowing remarks to say. They apparently felt the same way. In looking back at this year, yes, we do have a small shortfall. It's something of serious concern. It was a good year, and you were wonderful. Staff was terrific, but you were wonderful to serve with. I just wanted to thank all of you for the time that you put in. When we talk about volunteers and a volunteer party, to me you are the greatest volunteers I get to work with. I want to wish you a Happy New Year, Happy Holidays.

Then I want to say one other thing. I did not get the capital projects through. Lance got the capital projects through. I did lobbying. I did my part, but Lance is essential. He did a wonderful job. He is a superb partner to work with. Don't think for a minute that I could have gotten those capital projects through alone. Forget it. It wouldn't have happened. I thank you, Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:

I think that the County's support and the Legislature recognizes the commitment of the board. In retrospect, I think it was an easy sell because they do understand the commitment here of the museum and the Trustees and the President. I think we all work incredibly well together. I know at the committee meeting a Legislator said he throw the test down to us a few years ago, and we've met the test. I think that speaks for itself. I don't think we would have that support had we not shown that we're trying to do our best. I

don't think it's any one of us. I think working together as a group, we all accomplished the mission.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You have to come down with me sometime. Sometimes it's ugly, and it is difficult, but the reflection of you is in their eyes. I can see it. I can feel it. They care about what we're doing, and they are grateful to you for what you do. It makes it a much easier sell. Thank you. That's all I choose to say tonight. Is there any old business?

I think in terms of old business, one point I would like to bring up is that we have had a number of Trustees who have left the board over the years, and they haven't gotten their fish. We have to do a fish party. Carl.

MR. LUECKE:

While you mention it, I happened to have read in the paper that one of our past Board Members passed away, Iris Vanderbilt.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Yes, it was in the *Times* two days ago.

MR. MALLAMO:

That's Mr. Vanderbilt's granddaughter.

MR. LUECKE:

That's why I mentioned it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I wasn't aware of that.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'm sorry. I meant to mention that to you this afternoon, but I forgot.

DR. GITTELMAN:

She was the Chairwoman of the Board before you came on.

MR. LUECKE:

Definitely before me.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But not much before you.

MR. MALLAMO:

That would have been 1986 or 87.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

In fact, I saved the obituary. I think it was in there two days ago.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm sad to hear that. I don't know to whom but we should send –

MS. FUHRMANN:

I think they're asking for donations to – it's not us. Lance, I'll get you the information. I have it at home.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If you could let us know, that would be good. In terms of new business, I want to talk about – Yes, Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

I just want to be sure that everyone on the board understands that I work at Stony Brook College, and I don't set the schedule for my classes. For the last year because the administrative program has been undergoing a great rapid change due to the fact that the State has changed the regulations relative to getting certified, my classes have prohibited me from attending the meetings. It doesn't mean that I haven't been keeping up on what's going on. I talk to Steve, and I speak to Lance. But the reason I haven't been at the meetings, and I just want you all to know it, is because my classes have been scheduled on those nights from 5:20 until 9:10. I just have been unable to attend the meetings. For that, I am sorry, but it's reality of the situation. I have been assured that starting with the classes in January, my classes will be on Monday and Tuesday nights. I won't have this problem in the future.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, that's great. I would propose that we keep our meetings for the 2007 year on the third Wednesday night. It seems to be working. Is that a problem for anyone?

The second thing I would propose, and I know I said different at the last meeting, but we have been alternating. We could have the first business meeting in February if you'd like. There is no reason – we don't have to have it in January.

MR. LUECKE:

This being the business meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, this being the business meeting. We would have a Development Meeting in January and a business meeting in February, if that's agreeable to the board.

MS. FUHRMANN:

You should check the bylaws on the nominating thing.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Elections are supposed to occur the first meeting of the year, I think.

MS. FUHRMANN:

You should check the wording. I don't remember it.

MR. LUECKE:

Officers are almost the same anyway. It's not a big difference.

DR. GITTELMAN:

There is a tremendous amount of continuity. If that's okay with Gretchen, who is the only one who –

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

That's fine.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I just figured we could stick with the schedule. Instead of doubling up, the first business meeting will be February, then April, then etc. You all know the time will be 7:00.

DR. PECORALE:

You may want to take a look at that schedule, because that first meeting you're talking about in February is the week that school – that's a bad week.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Is that the week that school is out?

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

Yes. We can make it the second week.

DR. PECORALE:

You may want to just look at the calendar and announce it –

MR. DELUISE:

Could we make it that for one month it could be a different week?

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

Yes, just for February.

DR. PECORALE:

But I think I would also have a problem during Easter week.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Never mind. The first business meeting will be in January. I thought it was a good idea, but now I've been proven wrong. The first business meeting will be in January on the third Wednesday. I hope that that's good for everybody.

DR. PECORALE:

That's the 17th.

DR. ROGERS:

Under old business, I would like to ask what has happened to the audio visual situation we had been discussing? Have we gotten anymore quotes? Has it gone through the committee to make recommendations?

MR. MALLAMO:

I think we did. Gretchen did report on that at the October meeting.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

I think so.

MR. MALLAMO:

I think it was the October meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think it did come in higher than we had expected.

DR. ROGERS:

Pardon me?

DR. GITTELMAN:

It came in higher than we had anticipated.

MR. MALLAMO:

That was for the total package. What I had suggested to the committee is perhaps we could break components of it up. If we could find sponsors for different components of that project, such as the PDA's and the audio guides that people would hear with, it's two different equipments. If we broke that up, it might be a little easier than the total package. We decided the group tour portion of it we didn't even want to do at this time. We were taking \$16,000 out of the package to do that. Even the staff felt that we didn't have the capacity to work that equipment in.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, why don't you work up new numbers and try to bring it into a more feasible budget.

MR. MALLAMO:

Okay, I could work that up, Bill, and send it out to everyone.

MS. FUHRMANN:

When do you want to do the fish party?

DR. GITTELMAN:

When do we want to do the fish party?

MR. MALLAMO:

I can tell you this is not something that I have forgotten about. I know we

have a few people that need them. Every now and then I call Donna and she tells me, "When the weather is warming," or "When my schedule is slower," but it's been a couple of years, and I'll give Donna a call shortly and say, "Donna, the board is anxious. If you want your fish, you have to come and get it."

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's not just her. It's her forward. We should set a date and whoever can come should come.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think we should set a date and do it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

If she can't come, we can bring it down to her. Or at least one of us can bring it down to her.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But I think it's a small honor for a lot of work. We should do what we have to do to get it taken care of.

MS. FUHRMANN:

There's Bert and Deborah. I think Gary got his, right? No, Gary didn't get his.

MR. MALLAMO:

No, he did. He got one.

MS. FUHRMANN:

That's right. Gary was before Donna.

DR. GITTELMAN:

May I have a motion to adjourn?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll do that.

MR. MACCHIONE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 10/0/0/5 Not Present: Ms. LeBow, Mr. D'Orazio, Ms Figalora & Mr. Kleinberg)**

(Dr. Steve Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.)

SG:ap