

**SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on July 18, 2007 in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York.

**The following were in attendance:**

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President  
Gretchen Oldrin-Mones - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Michael B. DeLuise - Treasurer  
David D'Orazio - Secretary  
Marjorie Kosoy Fuhrmann - Trustee  
William Macchione - Trustee  
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee  
Matthew Swinson - Trustee  
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director  
Carol Hart - Director of Special Projects  
David Bush - Staff  
Lorraine Vernola - Staff  
Carl Luecke - former Trustee  
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

**Absent:**

Maria Figalora - Trustee  
Howard B. Kleinberg - Trustee  
Susan LeBow - Trustee  
Daniel Olivieri - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Ronald Parr - Trustee  
Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Trustee

**(Dr. Steven Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.)**

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

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

**MS. PASTORE:**

Yes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Public Relations Report.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Todd couldn't make it tonight, so there is no report.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Buildings and Grounds Committee, Bill.

**MR. MACCHIONE:**

The air conditioning in Normandy Manor is complete and is up and running. In the golf course a new electrical 200 amp service is being installed for large events, especially events like the Rotary event that's coming up. That will provide extra power over on that side and meet with the demands of the town inspectors. That's basically it with my report.

**MR. D'ORAZIO:**

Steve?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Yes, David.

**MR. D'ORAZIO:**

Can we get a motion to approve the minutes?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Did we leave you out again?

**MR. D'ORAZIO:**

I did review the minutes from last month's meeting, but in light of the fact that I was absent from the meeting, I would ask anybody on the Board if they have any comments on last month's minutes. I didn't see any problems myself.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

I'll move to accept the minutes.

**MR. DELUISE:**

I'll second that.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Discussion? All in favor? Opposed? **The minutes are approved. (Vote: 7/0/0/7 Not Present: Mr. Swinson. Absent: Mr. Olivieri, Ms. Figalora, Mr.**

**Kleinberg, Ms. LeBow, Mr. Parr & Dr. Pecorale.)** Thank you for bringing that to my attention. Okay, Development Committee.

**MR. D’ORAZIO:**

I’ve been in contact with a marketing firm, and we have a meeting on Monday to finish up and finalize all of our marketing paperwork and have that printed. They said they could have that printed within two to three days. We will be sending out the invitations very shortly. We’ll have our sponsorship packages finished at the same time so we can get those out. I do have a revised proposal from Event Pros Group. We asked them to revise some of the package, and I’ll pass that around for people to look at. It’s pretty exciting. They are very professional people, very easy to work with and open to making changes according to our needs, knowing that the Vanderbilt has to meet certain criteria, so the Board has to accept certain items. They are willing to adjust and even donate a lot of stuff to help us out. I’ll pass that around for everybody to look at.

Everything is moving along. We have commitments for some ads that were donated in the local magazines and whatnot. I will be putting out a press release next month to all the local media about the event. That’s something different from last year. We didn’t do that last year, but in the future we will be putting out a press release to all local media, radio, television, magazines and newspapers. It’s good that we get it out there. It’s a public service announcement. A lot of these media venues would put it in their content for nothing because it is a public service announcement for a non-for-profit. It’s great publicity for us. They will follow up after the event with pictures that we’ll send to magazines and other publications so that we get some post coverage for next year’s event. It usually works pretty well.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Are there changes in the budget?

**MR. D’ORAZIO:**

From the budget that we looked at two meetings ago? Everything in the budget seems to be awash. We did come up a little bit in our event planning, but we added some items. We found some cost cutting areas that we could probably come up with in other areas. It’s basically the same budget dollar-wise as we had two months ago.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Any comment from anyone else?

**MR. MACCHIONE:**

Will the brochures be mailed out to us as soon as they become available?

**MR. D’ORAZIO:**

Absolutely. The sponsorship kits will get out to the Board Members in addition to the museum itself sending them out to potential donators, sponsors, but Board Members will get their own copies also, so that they can hand those out.

**MR. MACCHIONE:**

I’ve got to submit it for a request.

**MR. D’ORAZIO:**

Absolutely.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

David, is there anything that the Board should be doing with you now that we're not doing? What do you need?

**MR. D'ORAZIO:**

What I will need is once we get the paperwork together, marketing materials, we will need the Board to – like I said, we'll distribute some packages to each of the Board Members and we're going to ask that they go out and at the very least attempt to solicit some donations from relationships that they have. Whether it comes through or not, we don't know, but at least make the effort. It's important.

Additionally, those will go out to our contacts and we'll also ask for donations. We also need raffles. We have a little bit of time, but this is the time to go out and ask. I think Marjorie had touched on that at the last meeting. If you go to a restaurant or something that is local in the area, ask them for a couple of free packages for meals or whatnot because these are things we can group together for different raffle packages.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

I have two raffle prizes already that I meant to bring tonight but forgot at home. I'm sorry, but they are stored at my house.

**MR. D'ORAZIO:**

Even some things you think may not be interesting, unique items certain people jump all over them. It could be an item that people really want and need, so even if it's something that's unique, it may be something that we're interested in. If you have a question about it, just give us a call and we'll talk about it.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Anyone who can solicit any raffle items, I would appreciate the help.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Thank you for that report. Education and Exhibits Committee.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

These are our pass-outs for a report tonight. We are passing around the following: copies of the visitor's log for the month of June, selected pages with comments, and a postcard from 1910 concerning the Vanderbilt Cup Race picturing the only car to win the race twice. Florence is researching that now as to where this picture came from. There is a program from Newport, Rhode Island of the William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., Concourse D'Eleganc at the Newport Mansions being held at the Newport Mansions July 27 through July 29, 2007. This is a celebration of all things automatic featuring the first annual William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., Lifetime Achievement Awards. In conjunction, Marble House is having an exhibit on Eagles Nest. We have a program from it here. The reason we have this is Florence went up there for a vacation weekend and picked up a program.

The greeters and guides have been working hard during these summer months. There have been many visitors to the mansion, planetarium and grounds. As I said, we're passing around the visitor's log so that you can see their comments.

Ongoing research and lectures include the Model A Ford Club, who are using photographs of our Vanderbilt Cup Races on the Long Island Motor Parkway for a lecture.

Paul Mateyunos' book, *North Shore Long Island Country Homes, 1890 – 1950* has been published. He was a guide here when he was 15 and was instrumental in getting the A&E TV network to visit us a number of years ago during those and preparing a program.

Florence has written a forward for Howard Kroplick's book, *Images of Sports, the Vanderbilt Cup Races on Long Island*. That book is at the publishers.

We are participating in an exhibit at the Long Island Museums at Stony Brook. The exhibit date has not yet been determined.

Florence has already been meeting with the Garden Clubs concerning next holiday season's decorations. The next LIMA meeting will be held at C.W. Post on September 17 from 10 to 4, and it concerns the introduction of technology helpful to museum personnel.

On June 30, 2007 we filed our IMLS Report timely. Stephanie has requested an additional one-year extension of time with IMLS and is awaiting approval. She expects that she will get it.

On July 31, Barbara Sussman, an artist who is Henry Hobart Nichols' grandniece, is going to be visiting us to see his work in the habitat for the first time. Stephanie is inviting any Member of the Board who would like to join her in welcoming Ms. Sussman, to please meet her to view the habitat with Ms. Sussman. David Schwendeman, who is the taxidermist who will be working on the whale-shark, has contacted Stephanie and is assembling a special team of taxidermists to work on the whale-shark. They are looking for three to four days where they can all come together to complete the project.

During the summer of 2008, the Long Island Museum of Art, History and Carriages will be borrowing an unaccessioned collection piece for their program called "Savage Seas." It is our lighthouse lens, a five inch order Fresnel lens from Goat Island, Rhode Island, which was donated to the museum by the U.S Coast Guard for our Board minutes of April 26, 1962. They have also requested a Currier & Ives print called "Show Stoppers."

Our camp program has been sold out all summer. We're also doing very well with outside camp groups who come to visit us on a regular basis. They come here for scheduled events, as well as calling on rainy days to visit us for events when they can't participate in events at their own venues due to rain.

The school brochure will be at the post office by next week and needs to be mailed out. The public brochure is on hold.

Cornell has sold out their camp as well this year. Coordination with our camp has been going very well all summer. There have been no issues. For those who would like to know, the clams are being moved out of the boathouse and the oysters are being moved in and will be growing.

The laser has been having problems, and the sound system needs repair as well. Dave is repairing it as well as he can. He needs certain parts to complete the job, and there have been complaints from the public. The special effects cards came in and are now being installed. The new console operator who was recently hired has been working out well. As one laser disk player has become inoperable, Dave has been transferring that information to an MP3 Player and does not plan to replace the laser disk player.

Three slide projectors were purchased with Gretchen's latest donation. Thank you, Gretchen. Dave has been talking to other planetarium directors concerning the conversion to full-dome from slide in preparation for our conversion from slide.

The show, "Moon Show" will be installed for October 2007. The Halloween and holiday seasonal shows will be installed for their respective runs on a timely basis.

We want to thank Tony Pecorale, who is not here tonight, for getting us a donation of a digital camera. A thank you note should be sent to the donating source. We don't know exactly where Tony got it, so we're going to have to find out from him. We'd like a note sent to that person or organization. Again, we'd also like to thank Gretchen, my Co-Chair, for her continued generosity in funding slide projections for the planetarium. That's our report.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Thank you for that report. Any questions?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Steve, the Audit and Personnel Handbook Committee did not meet tonight because Dan Olivieri was held up in court. He told me he would be here for the Board Meeting, but I see he's still apparently running late.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Michael Deluise.

**MR. DELUISE:**

For the Finance Committee the Treasurer's Report is in your packet. If you notice, our finances are still tight. Lance informs me that June looks like it was a very good month, so hopefully the next report we give we'll be inching our way back to more substantial successful numbers. That's the end of my report.

**(Mr. Matthew Swinson entered the meeting at 7:15 P.M.)**

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Okay, Director's Report.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Well, at this time I would like to make a presentation. I'm going to turn this over to Steve for a moment.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I didn't write this one. I'm going to get blubbery.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

We're all going to get blubbery.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Carl, my dear Carl, it should say something like, "In recognition of – God you've been here forever and you're great." And it should say, "Are you really going to do this?"

**MR. LUECKE:**

I've sold my house three times. I hope I'm leaving.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Three times?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Carl, you're now making me the longest serving Trustee in the place. It's a nice fish.

**MR. LUECKE:**

Steve, thank you very much. I enjoyed every minute of it. I met a lot of interesting people. It was very, very enjoyable. A lot of nights you don't feel like coming down and breaking away from the house, but once you're down here and start getting involved, you enjoy it. It's been great. I met a lot of people who have done a lot of work for the museum. It's just been excellent, one of the nicest activities I've been involved with for sure.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Are you sure you don't want to stay? It's been, what, 20 years?

**MR. LUECKE:**

I hope I have another 20 years left.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Oh, you do. As Willie K. did, you'll go sailing.

**MR. LUECKE:**

I enjoyed it. Thank you very much.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Well, here's your fish.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

What does it say?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

It doesn't say enough. But it says, "In recognition of your many years of service as a Trustee and an Officer of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum." He was President, Treasurer, Vice President, and Treasurer again, I think. Thank you so much.

**MR. LUECKE**

Thank you.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

For those of you who don't know, Carl has been a Broadway star.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

You were a Broadway star in the opening night production of "The King and I."

**MR. LUECKE:**

That's correct. I was a child actor, and I primarily did television. I did so many – in those days television was live. I did "Kraft Mystery Theater," and "Hands of Destiny." My manager got me a job as an understudy, actually, in the "King and I." It was the original "King and I," with Yul Brynner and Gertrude Lawrence. We opened in New Haven, and then we went and opened in Boston. When we came to New York – I actually understudied Gertrude Lawrence's son, but the prince became ill, a friend of mine, Johnny Stewart, so my manager said, "He can do the prince." They had to take charcoal and make my – I hope this is off the record.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

No, it's all on the record.

**MR. LUECKE:**

Darken my hair, and I played the prince. Rodgers and Hammerstein were very generous. They doubled my salary as an understudy for the rest of the time I was there. I made twice as much money, but I understudied both characters. Interestingly, back in those days I had made a movie, which was a pseudo commercial about model railroads. Unknown to me, it was a cult film outside of New York. What happened is in that era television was live, so if you had something live in New York, it would be at an awful time in California. This was actually a film, so they shot it across the country. Everybody could play it at prime time. I never even saw the film, and I never saw myself on television, obviously, because it was all live. It didn't matter anyway, because my parents didn't have a TV. I come to find out that I was asked to give a speech in Chicago last year. They asked if I would go to a model railroad show, American Flyer, and if I would give a speech. They would pay for my wife and myself to fly out and stay there, which I did. On my way back is how I happened to go through Savannah and decided to move there.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Isn't that amazing? My parents went to the opening night to the "King and I."

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Excuse me. I was at the opening night. My mother was pregnant with me.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

See how we're all connected? It's like six degrees of –

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I wasn't there.

**MR. SWINSON:**

Carl, I'm actually heading to Savannah at the end of the month.

**MR. LUECKE:**

Is that right?

**MR. SWINSON:**

For a family reunion.

**MR. LUECKE:**

Is that right? Great.

I just want to say, as most of you know, this will be my last Board Meeting at the Vanderbilt Museum. I'm moving on to Virginia. I want to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed working here for almost ten years. I've enjoyed working with each and every one of you. It's been a pleasure to work with the staff and see things happen here. I particularly want to thank Steve Gittelman for giving me the opportunity to come here initially and for having the vision for the museum. Steve has always been coming up with projects and ideas, the whole waterfront proposal and the focus on the capital projects. I implemented a lot of that, but Steve was really the visionary. It was my pleasure to work with him these many years. I think we've had a great partnership. I'm certainly going to miss that, Steve.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

We're going to miss you.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

I know you're going to call me in Virginia every now and then and tell me what the latest is on your research and what's happening here. I'm only a phone call away. I will be back to check on everybody's progress and keep things going here and will do my best to see that the Vanderbilt will succeed even without me. I know you're going to do great things. I expect a lot, and I'm going to be monitoring your progress. I hope we all have the chance to have our paths cross again. Please, if you're down in the Washington area, I'm only going to be a couple of miles away from downtown D.C. at 220 North Washington Street in the Old Town Section. It's the Office of Historic Alexandria. My office will be in the Lloyd House. If you're down there – I was just telling Bill Macchione that I think there are more restaurants in that town you can eat in in ten years, so I'll be happy to take anybody to lunch as many times as you can come. I look forward to seeing you down there. That's my report, Steve.

**MR. LUECKE:**

What's the actual name of the museum?

**MR. MALLAMO:**

It's a city agency. It's a city department for the City of Alexandria called Office of Historic Alexandria. That office administers all the city owned museums and the historic districts that encompass over 6,000 historic buildings publicly and privately owned. I will definitely have my hands full.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Lance, it's been great working with you. I can't believe this would be happening but it is. I know we all wish you the best. You've done a terrific job. You will do great down there. Congratulations. I don't care what you say. It's not a promotion. This place is still better. Then again, I'm biased.

I can tell a million stories of how it's been working with Lance. I'm sure all of you can.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

It's been interesting.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

But I think we're going to make an exception tonight. Only Trustees get fish, but Lance has been – I had a hand in what this one says. It says, "Hero of history, accomplished Director of the Museum and good friend."

**MR. LUECKE:**

Beautiful.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Very nice.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

Thank you very much. I really appreciate that, Steve. I don't think I will ever live down "Mr. Suffolk County History," which is a term you coined. That and "You saved the Big Duck" will be my epitaph, I'm sure. That is beautiful. Thank you very much. I will treasure this always. This will be hanging in a very prominent spot. Thank you again.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Don't forget to take it with you.

**MR. MALLAMO:**

No, I won't.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Now I have to call for an executive session for purposes of discussing a change in leadership at the museum. Perhaps we should all retreat to the classrooms and talk.

**(EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:30 P.M. – 8:50 P.M.)**

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

We're back from executive session. We'll go to the President's message. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Board of Trustees has asked Carol Hart to take the position of Deputy Director, which is stipulated by County Code. She will be acting as Acting Deputy Director while the museum conducts a national search for a candidate for the position of Director. This does not preclude Carol from applying for the position. We welcome her to apply for the position. We will begin the search shortly. Carol will take over her responsibilities immediately. We hope that the next two weeks' change between Carol and Lance go smoothly. If there is anything that we can do to facilitate that, we will be available. Carol has accepted our offer. We're all, frankly, thrilled.

I'm trying to figure out how many Directors I've worked with. Carl, you have one more than me.

**MR. LUECKE:**

Did you work with Lindsay?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

No. Did you work with Gay Wagner?

**MR. LUECKE:**

I think she was just a temporary Director.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

They were all temporary back then.

**MR. LUECKE:**

No, I don't think she actually had the title of Director.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I thought she did for a year.

**MR. LUECKE:**

I don't believe so.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

After Gay Wagner was Tom Rhodes.

**MR. LUECKE:**

Yes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

You worked with Tom for two years.

**MR. LUECKE:**

Yes.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Then we went to Alison Sanchez and then Lance Mallamo. Now on an interim basis we have Carol Hart. It was a good bunch of people. It should be exciting. It's certainly a time of transition. I certainly will miss Lance. I'm also excited about working with Carol. Everything is an opportunity. Is there any old business? Any new business?

**MR. DELUISE:**

I would just like to say for new business, this afternoon we learned that a good friend of the museum, Elena Perez, Vice President of Bank of America, passed away unexpectedly. I think as Trustees and as Members and Directors of the Museum, we all owe a great deal of gratitude not only to the Bank of America but to our contact there, Elena Perez. I just would offer that we have a moment of silence in her memory.

[Moment of Silence]

Thank you. She was a very good friend of not only the museum but of all the cultural institutions and community organizations on Long Island.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

We have already had an executive session. May I have a motion to adjourn?

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Motion.

**DR. ROGERS:**

Second.

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

Wait, before we adjourn, I just wanted to recommend that we go back to monthly sessions.

**MS. FUHRMANN:**

Do you need a resolution?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

I don't need a resolution. The next meeting, instead of being a Development Meeting, will be a Regular Meeting of the Board.

**MR. MACCHIONE:**

What is that date, Steve?

**DR. GITTELMAN:**

It's the third Wednesday of the month. It's the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. Is that okay with everyone? We had a motion and a second to adjourn. All in favor? Opposed? **We stand adjourned.** Thank you. **(Vote: 8/0/0/6 Absent: Mr. Olivieri, Ms. Figalora, Mr. Kleinberg, Ms. LeBow, Mr. Parr & Dr. Pecorale.)**

**(Dr. Steven Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 9:05 P.M.)**

**SG:ap**