

Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum

Board of Trustees

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held in the Vanderbilt Museum Lobby, Centerport, New York, on January 18, 2012.

The following were in attendance:

Mr. Noel Gish – President
Gretchen Oldrin Mones – 2nd Vice President
Ronald A. Beattie – Treasurer
Duncan Armstrong – Trustee
Betsy Cambria – Secretary
Kevin Peterman – Trustee
Joseph Dujmic – Trustee
Dr. Steven Gittelman – Trustee
Rodney Rodriguez – Trustee
Peter Gunther - Trustee
Thomas Glascock - Trustee
Lance Reinheimer – Interim Executive Director
Lorraine Vernola – Staff
Barbara Oster – Staff
Robert Pilnick – resident
Marc Haskelson - Resident
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Absent:

Dr. William Rogers – Trustee

(Mr. Noel Gish called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.)

MR. GISH:

Good Evening. This is a meeting of the Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees meeting. I would ask you to rise for a pledge to the flag, please.

(SALUTE TO THE FLAG)

We'll start the meeting. I'd like to get through committee reports, if we can, and then move on to elections. Gretchen, Education Report.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

There's lots of exciting news coming out of the Education and Exhibits Committee. The mobile museum bus is being readied for use and already a school district is interested in reserving. The re-badging graphics will be applied by the end of January, weather permitting. The driver training will take place early February. After inspection, it will be ready to roll. Five people will be trained to drive it: Lorraine, Dave, Lance, Pete and Tim.

Lorraine has completed adapting the curriculum and will work on helping create the brochure that will be mailed out to announce this fantastic new program.

Traditionally February break is our best attended week of the year. However, due to the planetarium closing, this year will probably be different. Right now work on the planetarium is scheduled to begin early February. On a hopeful note, we have pictures of our star projector and the console parts that are built and waiting in a warehouse in Japan. I'll pass these out.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Are we going to check these for radioactivity before sending them out?

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

December's "Our Night Out" was sold out. January's program was cancelled because construction was scheduled to begin on the planetarium. Now, as we just said, it's scheduled for February.

Despite the planetarium closure, the museum education programs are going strong. "Egypt" and "Animal Homes" are popular programs, with some schools booking two programs on one day. Winter recess

workshops are being offered for Pre-K and Kindergarten and for Grades 1 through 3.

The cottage, which has traditionally been used by the educators, is expected to be returned to museum use in April when it was no longer used as temporary emergency housing for the County Legislator.

Attendance for the mansion tours this holiday season was outstanding. In December 1,041 people toured the mansion and took the candle-light tour. This compares to 658 in December of 2010. Factors to consider in pondering these numbers are that the mansion was closed Wednesday and Thursday this year for November and December, and also the planetarium has been closed. The mansion and the planetarium were both open last year 2010, although there was a blizzard on December 26.

Part of the success of the high attendance of the mansion could be contributed to Chris Collara who filmed the mansion decorated for the holidays on December 8 and posted his video to You Tube. Additionally, there were some *Newsday* pictures of the candle-light tours and mansion. There was an article on January 5, which I have one copy, so we can pass that around.

Another contributing factor is that this year's decorations were made extra special by the hundreds of dollars worth of ornaments, trees and decorations donated by garden clubs. Also people taking the candle-light tour were treated to delicious cookies donated by the Copenhagen Bakery. Thank you to the garden clubs and to the Copenhagen Bakery. They helped make the holidays special.

The sale of the 1937 Chrysler benefits the museum in a big way. Money from the sale will be used for maintaining and enhancing the collections. One great thing about finally having a fund of money for the collection is that it can be used to obtain matching funds. Such funding could make things possible like restoring paintings in the collection. Painting conservator, Alex Katlin, made his second on-site visit January 5 to assess paintings in need of attention. Stephanie has received treatment estimates in writing for nine pages identified as most in need of conservation. She is exploring available funding for this project.

Lynnda Speer, the granddaughter of Judge Stoll, visited the Friday after Thanksgiving. Lance and Stephanie met with her and her son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren, one of whom is named for Judge

Stoll. They were thrilled to see the Stoll Wing exhibit and are interested in helping the museum to improve and maintain the exhibit. If they had visited at a time when school children were presented, they would have fully realized how amazing and appreciated the Stoll Wing is.

Mrs. Speer indicated that there would be support available next year through their charitable foundation. She asked Stephanie to enumerate the improvement projects required for the Stoll Wing and to convey them to her in writing. Lynnda Speer has already donated \$3,000 to the Vanderbilt. We thank her for her generosity and her continued support and for being part of what makes the Vanderbilt special.

Professor Anita Moskowitz has forwarded della Robbia images to Marietta Cambereri, Curator of Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, for her review. Professor Moskowitz will be returning to Italy for her own research and hopes to continue looking for information on the Vanderbilt della Robbia sculpture. Essentially her take is that our della Robbia is genuine – and if not, definitely worth restoring.

Nina Sangimino, who was Stephanie's curatorial intern, accepted a paid position with a New York City gallery. We thank her for her work as a volunteer here and wish her well.

Kristen Amundsen, who is a volunteer curatorial intern here, has been helping Stephanie with inquiries from the public regarding Vanderbilt history and is compiling biographical information on family members for reference purposes. She has recently returned to Salve Regina.

Finally, if you haven't made your plans for Valentine's Day, there is nothing more romantic than dining at the Vanderbilt on February 11 for only \$100 per person.

(Dr. Gittelman entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.)

MR. GISH:

Thank you, Gretchen. Any questions? Ron, you can run through any of the three committees you'd like.

MR. BEATTIE:

The Treasurer's Report, if anybody wants to take a look at the Treasurer's Report, there's nothing out of the ordinary on it. If you

have any questions, I'd be happy to try to answer them, along with Lance.

Without any questions, I can move quickly to Development. We had a meeting last week, and things are really looking up, certainly with a lot of the things that had been accomplished lately. But we're making a lot of progress with getting sponsors for the mobile classroom. It turned out we were working on two prongs for the same organization. We're going to combine our efforts and see if we can do better that way.

The Development staff has put together a pretty nice draft of programs so that we all have the tools to go out in terms of corporate giving to ask for money and in terms of corporate sponsorship. I can pass around these drafts – and they are just drafts. We're moving in that direction so that we all have the bag of tricks that we need to go and raise some of that money.

We turn to the most important thing that's coming up, which is gearing up for the grand reopening of the planetarium. That's really where our future is right now. We spoke a lot about that. The main thing that we determined is we have to look at it as an entire package, not only for getting the projector, but visitor experience here.

We're going to work together. I spoke to Kevin Peterman a little bit about it also in terms of Buildings and Grounds so that we can have a concerted effort of what we need to do when people walk in that door before they even see the projector, they go, "Wow," as opposed to right now where their shoulders kind of slump and they go, "Oh." That's it for Development. If anybody has any questions, let me know.

MR. GISH:

Building and Grounds.

MR. PETERMAN:

Stephanie was kind enough to report some things to me. Of course, we've had a few problems lately, and I think we should all be aware that the Marine Museum is leaking from the roof. It's compromising the walls and ornamentation in both upper and lower floors. In the archives, water is dripping from the ceiling with each rain storm on to desks and computers. They have to cover their work in plastic every time it rains. In the guides' room, the ceiling has been ongoing with leaks. It just keeps happening every time there's a storm. Large pieces of plaster are falling on the Northport porch. There's been

flooding and leaking of stone. Habitat, there's some spackle hanging and tape. The ceiling, the air conditioner is not working at all. Peter says it either needs to be fixed or replaced. Finally, the Windsor bedroom, plaster wall damage and paint is bubbling from the water leaking.

MR. GISH:

Just like there's no heat in the planetarium--

MR. PETERMAN:

Anyone that's here would know that there's no heat in the planetarium. That's the end of my positive report.

MR. GISH:

Lance.

MR. REINHEIMER:

I've addressed a couple of the issues that Kevin brought up. I spoke to Public Works last week. I called them with a change in administration. I'm hoping that there's an incentive to maintain the museum to the quality it should be.

I spoke to them about a couple of things. One is paving the roads. Last spring we walked through with Public Works and some contractors, and they gave us an estimate for all the paving needs of the museum. Public Works is supportive of doing that project. We have money in our Capital Project. It's a case of weather and the time of year. So it looks like it's going to be Spring or March. They don't like to pave or when it's below 45 degrees when the ground is below 45 also.

I talked to them about doing the bathrooms in the planetarium and the renovations. We do have money in the ADA, Americans With Disabilities Act, that would provide the funds to modify the bathrooms to comply with the ADA. It makes sense to do that. I spoke to Public Works that if we did the bathrooms after the planetarium is open, there is an additional cost for renting a trailer or some kind of bathroom facility. It makes economic sense to do the bathrooms and lockstep with the rest of the renovations. They looked at the bathrooms, and they can be done without a major planning step. They can work within the existing size of the bathrooms and work with the existing in-house planning. So that's good.

Off the top of my head, I think there is money in the 2012 Capital Program for roofs. We're looking to cobble together enough appropriations so that we can do the Hall of Fishes. I think there's money to get appropriated for that. I'll check into that.

Going on to Normandy Manor, we're working on preparing the facility for leasing license and for March 1 move-in date. We're progressing. We bought a washer and dryer. We're working on the bathroom using our staff to do the work with the guidance and support of the designer that did the design and is providing the technical plans and needs to do that work. That's progressing pretty nicely.

The Chrysler, as Gretchen had referred to before, will provide money for us. We sent out a prospectus November 4. Bids were due back December 23. The prospectus laid out the procedure for the sale and interested bidders and qualified bidders did meet on January 10. We have a tentative sale for that vehicle, which I think the President will address that in a few minutes.

Special events, I provided copies of the invitation to the Valentine's Dinner. These are invitations that are going to be sent to people who attended last year's event and also to encourage as many Board Members to attend as possible. That would be nice.

In addition, there's a map that we put together in-house for use. This is really a Beta map to see if this works. If you think there are any improvements we can make to this, please let me know. That's why there's nothing printed on the back, at this point in time. We only had 500 printed up. We'll see how this works when the customers use it and then we can expand and put some information on the back.

That's all I have to report. If anybody has any questions, please let mw know. Peter?

MR. GUNTHER:

The roofing - if somebody wanted to donate their services to fix the roofing, how would they go about doing something like that.

MR. REINHEIMER:

They'd have to do that with the approval of Public Works. There's probably a whole bunch of legal contractual and other issues that would have to be addressed. We can approach Public Works and ask them about that and work with them, but that's something that would have to go through the Department of Public Works.

MR. GUNTHER:

Okay, thanks.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

I have a question for you about the people that are renting Normandy Manor. What are we doing to make sure that they understand that it has to be in the same exact condition that they get it when it's brought back? If they have children, because I believe you said they have children –

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, they have no children, no pets, and they're part-time residents. They have other –

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Are they providing us with insurance coverage?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes. The County did the licensing agreement. Actually, the license agreement that the County crafted is more stringent than normal because there were things in there that we included in there that's not in the normal licensing agreement. It requires them to include a certain amount of insurance for liability, for contents and fire. That was all done by the County Attorney's Office.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

There was a lot of specialty work that was done in there that most insurance wouldn't cover because it's above and beyond what's typical. So how is that going to be handled?

MR. REIMHEIMER:

Specialty work?

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Insurance companies are pretty black and white when it comes to paying for damages. Do you have something that was done that would cover for artistic things? They may not cover it to the cost that it would cost to repair that.

MR. REINHEIMER:

The only thing that's in there – there's a lot of faux finished painting on the walls. The large picture, that's kind of nominal in terms of what it would cost to replace that. The kitchen is a standard residential

kitchen. Outside of the painting – even the bathrooms are not something that’s exceptional. So I don’t think that’s a problem. I think, again, I don’t have the contract in front of me, but I think the liability was several hundred thousand dollars, and they have to cover the contents. There are restrictions on there. There’s security, there’s a \$5,000 security deposit. They have to cover their contents for fire. It’s a pretty extensive contract or licensing agreement. I can always make that available for you.

MR. RODRIQUEZ:

I’d like to take a look at it.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Sure, I can email that to you.

MR. GISH:

I think I’ll follow up on Rodney and make a suggestion that we just take pictures of the interior prior to them moving in. I think that would be a good stop-gap measure just to cover ourselves.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

All they have to do is have one crazy party in there and wreck the place.

MR. GISH:

I can go in there and take some pictures.

MR. RIENHEIMER:

We can do that.

MR. GISH:

Then we’ll just put that in the file, and we’ll date it. We can videotape it, also.

MR. REINHEIMER:

What I’ll do is provide the license agreement to all Board Members, but it was crafted with the County Attorney. Any other questions?

MR. DUJMIC:

I don’t have a question. I have a comment considering that there is a new administration coming in. I would just ask them to take a serious look at the Vanderbilt and in my opinion what’s the turn-around over the past year or year and a half. I would ask them to make a serious investment in the Vanderbilt.

The old saying goes, "It takes money to make money." If we don't have the money to keep up with our buildings, we're not going to be attractive to people in the area, outside the area to come to. I know that the new planetarium is going to be a big draw.

That being said, I think there needs to be – and I know we're in difficult times. I understand that. I know that the Vanderbilt is not the top priority, but if the County makes a serious investment, I think that at some point down the road, not immediately, the Vanderbilt can serve to potentially be a money making institution for the County. I think it's something that they should really take a significant look at. That's really the only comment I have.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

You should make that comment at the Legislature.

MR. DUJMIC:

I will.

MR. GISH:

I would like to note since our last meeting, we did have a resignation from a member of the Board of Trustees, Tanya McKay. She has resigned from the Board. I did speak to her. Her enthusiasm for the Board was tempered by the fact that she has two young children on the home front. Although, she didn't expect her husband's position as President of Suffolk Community College to take as much time in the evening as it did, which has required her to resign from the Board.

On to a few assorted topics. I was present on January 10 for the car auction. We are going to go into executive session in a moment to deal with that before we get a vote from the Board of Trustees.

We met with Ralph Colamussi on January 17, which was yesterday, to go over the catering contract, which has been out of our hands since November, just to iron out issues that were misconceptions or problems that they thought they had. For the most part, the lawyers from both sides would be handling that from this particular point on until it comes before the Board for approval.

Cell tower is exactly the way it was before. I will tell you that my attempted balloon test of last week ended up with three balloons getting blown into the trees. My 140 balloon test ended in failure. I will attempt to try that again when the wind is not blowing so hard.

I would like to get a motion that we move into executive session to discuss the auction of the Chrysler.

MR. DUJMIC:

Motion.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Can I add a second cause for executive session regarding contract negotiations.

MR. GISH:

Contract negotiations?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Regarding the Dinosaur Society.

MR. GISH:

Okay, good. We'll handle both of those in executive session. All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote 10/0/0/2 Not Present: Mr. Armstrong. Absent: Dr. Rogers.)**

(Executive Session 7:30 – 7:50 p.m.)

MR. GISH:

I'd like to bring the Board of Trustees back into public session. I'd like to start by asking that the minutes from our last meeting be approved.

MR. DUJMIC:

Motion.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Second.

MR. GISH:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote 10/0/0/2 Not Present: Mr. Armstrong. Absent: Dr. Rogers.)** Thank you.

Now I'd like to make a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the sale of the 1937 Chrysler for \$275,000, with that resolution being brought to the County Legislature for their approval.

MR. BEATTIE:

Motion.

MR. PETERMAN:

Second.

MR. GISH:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote 10/0/0/2 Not Present: Mr. Armstrong. Absent: Dr. Rogers.)** Thank you.

Now I'd like to do an administrative function, if I could, please. This would make it a little bit easier as we move through. Right now we have a process where it requires two signatures on checks for payables to be done by two members of the Executive Committee. I would like to, if we possibly can, move that administrative function go to checks above \$1,000.

In other words, they require one signature for the majority of the bills or the checks that I sign. These checks are going to LIPA, gas companies, minor elements and nothing major. It would make it easier on the Treasurer. It would make it easier on the staff if we could move to one signature under \$1,000. Any checks over \$1,000 would then refer to two signatures by a member of the Board.

I'd like to make that motion.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Second.

MR. GISH:

On the question, Joe.

MR. DUJMIC:

Is that something that is going to be permanent? Is it going to be something that's just temporary and will expire at the end of the term of the next President or Treasurer, whatever the case may be?

MR. GISH:

I looked at that as permanent. I think it would just facilitate less calling up and having people arrive – it was nothing in three years that I thought was mandatory for me to come in and sign. A thousand dollars is an exception to the rule, for the most part.

MR. BEATTIE:

By the way, during the Audit Committee, we brought that up with the auditors, and they said that that was a good idea.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I did that for 15 years. It's a nightmare. It is.

MR. REINHEIMER:

And it was a recommendation from our outside auditors for \$1,000 limit.

MR. GISH:

Please understand that if there is a glitch that occurs in the interim, this Board can move to reverse that. It is only written as long as this Board keeps that approval.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Has there been an aggregate amount ever discussed? The idea that if it's less than \$1,000, you don't need more than one signature, but if you sign a thousand signatures, then it's suddenly aggregating to be a significant amount of money.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Are you saying the number of checks that are being signed?

MR. GLASCOCK:

Yes.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, and they –

MR. GLASCOCK:

But not more than x-amount of dollars in any period of time without –

MR. REINHEIMER:

Our budget is roughly \$1.7 million, so we spend about \$1.7 million a year. A lot of it is payroll and a lot of it is maintenance, utilities, insurance, and things of that nature. To keep track of what the aggregate is, there is no limit on that. But there's also no –

MR. GLASCOCK:

Even with the Treasurer and it being –

MR. REINHEIMER:

Generally, I sign the checks – I’m the sole signature, if they’re under \$200. This would bring it to \$1,000. At no time did we write several checks for under \$200 in order so I could sign three checks to the same person.

MR. GLASCOCK:

That’s not what I meant.

MR. REINHEIMER:

I know that’s not what you meant, but the checks are for routine operations of the museum 100 percent. That’s why the auditors who looked at the types of bills and what we’re paying recommended \$1,000. I support that as an administrator. I think the Treasurer does too because they come in and are signing checks for \$300 or \$400. They have to come in to do that to pay LIPA and insurance and whatnot.

MR. DUJMIC:

Maybe this is a stupid question, but there won’t be any reimbursement checks or anything like that, will there be? If somebody lays out something at any given point – I have concerns.

(Mr. Armstrong entered the meeting at 7:55 p.m.)

MR. REINHEIMER:

There are reimbursement checks, and staff does lay out money. We have no museum charge card. If I go to the internet for printing and things like that –

MR. DUJMIC:

Let me just clarify. This is my one concern. As much as a pain in the butt as it may seem to be, it’s really not because I’m distrustful of anyone. It’s more so because I don’t want anyone to be – and maybe this is the lawyer in me – but I don’t want anybody to be put in the position of being the only person signing the check for a reimbursement or something. Do you understand what I’m saying? And there’s no second signature or a witness to indicate –

MR. GLASCOCK:

Could you modify the resolution that it would only require one signature if it’s less than \$1,000, but it cannot be as a reimbursement to the signatory?

MR. REINHEIMER:

I do not sign any reimbursement checks to myself. That's a practice that you would do no matter what the amount is. Any check that's made out to reimburse myself is signed by an Executive Board Member. I won't sign a check that's made out to myself.

MR. GISH:

I have signed those in the past where I've laid out money.

MR. REINHEIMER:

And I don't generate the checks. The bookkeeper generates the checks. I sign, but if they're made out to me, I don't sign the check.

MR. GISH:

I think that would probably come up in an audit review. They're going to pick that up, and they would comment on that if we were doing something wrong. That's why when we switched to the new audit company, that was the reason for that, so there would be a complete clean sweep of that. I think that's something we can watch.

MR. BEATTIE:

And that's why this is important. It demonstrates that there are checks and balances and that there is oversight. The Audit Committee was very happy with what we had for checks and balances and oversight, including raising this to \$1,000.

MR. GISH:

So hopefully that answers your question.

MR. DJUMIC:

Yes, that's fine.

MR. GISH:

Any other questions on that?

MR. BEATTIE:

Motion.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Second.

MR. GISH:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote 11/0/0/1 Absent: Dr. Rogers.)**

Thank you.

We now move to Election of Officers for the 2012 year. Kevin Peterman and Tom were on that Nominating Committee. Would you like to report?

MR. PETERMAN:

Yes, we called for nominations. We got nominations for each office. I believe there's a slate to be presented tonight.

MR. GLASCOCK:

The slate would be Secretary, Treasurer, 1st Vice Present, President, 2nd Vice President.

MR. GISH:

Do you want me to list them?

MR. GLASCOCK:

Sure.

MR. GISH:

Ron Beattie has been named for the position of President; 1st Vice President, Joe Dujmic; 2nd Vice President, Gretchen; Secretary, Kevin; and Treasurer, Betsy. That is the slate that has been put together.

MR. GUNTHER:

I make a motion that the nominations be closed.

MR. GISH:

I have a motion that the nominations be closed. Do I have a second on that?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Second.

MR. GISH:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote 11/0/0/1 Absent: Dr. Rogers.)** I then ask that the current Secretary cast one vote for the slate as directed.

MS. CAMBRIA:

I so vote.

MR. GISH:

I congratulate the new officers who are present. Is there any old business?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, It was tradition for many years, and tradition has been lost in the past four or five years. The tradition was a simple little one. When Belanski used to travel with Willie K. he would paint the fish. We call them Belanski's. They're reprints of the original color paintings that Belanski did. The originals are in the American Museum of Natural History and haven't been seen for decades.

We have a collection of them, and by tradition, we reserve for each Trustee who finished a four-year term or a Trustee who served as an officer and was leaving or whatever, that we honor that Trustee by giving them a framed reproduction of a Belanski print. We haven't done it forever. It's funny. It's just a sentimental thing. If you put in service – I mean Noel has killed himself.

MR. GUNTHER:

I'd like to make a motion that we do that.

MR. GLASCOCK:

I'll second that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I really feel – and we have a Trustee who resigned who served well – we don't thank these Trustees enough. I don't want mine yet, but I'm just saying I think it's a tradition we have to keep. It costs nothing or I'll pay for all of it. It doesn't matter. We have them, and we can print them. So can we do that for the guys or folks who are leaving and certainly for a man who has served us as well as Noel has as President? He should get the whole damn school of fishes.

MR. BEATTIE:

I got him something. Noel really has done a fantastic job here. His hours have been priceless, and because he's been a punching bag, I decided to get him some real good mitts he can fight back with. It's a little bit too late, though.

MR. GISH:

I will treasure these.

MR. BEATTIE:

I would also like to suggest that – I mean, he's been a great friend and a tireless worker and advocate for the thing that we all care about, and that's why we serve on this Board, to save this institution.

There is nobody who has worked harder at that in the last couple of years certainly than Noel.

As a Board, we should consider getting a bench, and he can choose where he would like to have said bench. He's been on every inch of this place, so he knows where he might want the bench. It's probably going to be in a secluded spot.

DR. GITTELMAN:

How about a statue?

MR. BEATTIE:

That would be good. A Rocky statue.

DR. GITTELMAN:

How much does a bench cost?

MR. BEATTIE:

\$1,000.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'll put up \$1,000.

MS. CAMBRIA:

You don't have to do that.

MR. BEATTIE:

We're all pitching in.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Then get him two benches.

MR. GISH:

I'd rather have some of the money to go to the planetarium restoration if there's going to be money spent.

DR. GITTELMAN:

A bench and a Belanski.

MS. CAMBRIA:

What about a seat?

MR. GISH:

I already bought a seat.

MS. CAMBRIA:

I know, but how about another seat.

MR. GISH:

Another seat is fine. Anything we can do to aid the Roger's fund to help with improvements.

MR. BEATTIE:

Can I call for applause for Noel?

(APPLAUSE)

MR. REINHEIMER:

Mr. President, there's a motion regarding the prints.

DR. GITTELMAN:

A motion to approve that the prints are a permanent tradition.

MR. BEATTIE:

I'll second that. Peter already made the motion.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Can I just clarify because he mentioned two members. And the other member you were thinking of the print is?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Anyone who finished a four-year term –

MR. REINHEIMER:

Michael DeLuise. I just wanted that on the record.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Absolutely, I would like that.

MR. REINHEIMER:

So for Noel and Mike DeLuise.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm going to ask another thing. I know I'm being a real pain, but can we retire that and get Ron a new one and give that to Noel?

MR. GISH:

I've got the golden voice.

DR. GITTELMAN:

No, let's get Ron a new gavel. Let Noel have that hammer. I know when I turned it over, I said, "No, you can't have this." I know how painful this job can be. I don't know how to thank Noel enough. If we could do that, it would be great. I'll pay for a new gavel.

MR. GISH:

Thank you very much.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

I don't think anyone else could have done what you did during this time period – this very difficult situation that you've steered us through, and it worked. We're still open. We're moving in the right direction, so I think you deserve all the accolades and posters and benches and gavels and gloves. Thank you very much.

MR. GISH:

I appreciate all your sentiments. They are heartwarming.

MS. CAMBRIA:

I hope you're still going to be around.

MR. GISH:

I'll be around. I promised Tim and Peter that I'm going to work on a few projects. I, obviously, have to get my balloon test for the cell tower. I can't leave that. Obviously, I've got things that still carry my signature. So those will have to be resolved. I will be here to answer any questions, as Steve was for me for the institutional memory, so we'll be able to muscle through it. I thank you all.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Noel, thank you for covering my ass. And that's on the record. I was so lucky that you took over for me.

MR. GISH:

Steve left me three letters when I came in. He told me to answer them in the midst of crisis. They were labeled one, two and three. I opened the first letter within the first month that I was here dealing with the decline in the endowment. He had left me a note and said, "Just blame it on me." The second crisis came in I think 48 hours after that. I opened the second letter, which Steve had mentioned and he said, "You're new. Just tell them you're new and haven't been there that long. You'll work it out as time goes on." I got to the third crisis, and it was the planetarium. I opened the third letter, and the words

said, "You better start writing three letters." I thank you all for your comments. It was very, very pleasurable.

There's a motion on the floor and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote 11/0/0/1 Absent: Dr. Rogers.)** Thank you.

MR. DUJMIC:

I have a quick question. We're still on old business. I'm sorry to break up this happiness, but I have a couple of things I wanted to bring up.

First and foremost, I would ask if the present Legislator, Legislator Spencer, has indicated at what point he will be leaving the Vanderbilt. Has that been indicated yet?

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, it hasn't but I talked to his office staff, and they are looking for an office. There are parameters that they have to find an office – office size. There are restrictions on the size of the office they can have.

The County looks at market values of comparable offices to make sure that the office that they're considering is a reasonable price compared to other offices in the area. It has to be handicapped accessible. They also look at the cost of the build-out modifications for Legislative offices. There is no indication that they want to stay there. Every indication is that they're looking to move.

Once they find an office that's agreeable, it has to go before the Space Committee Meeting and Public Works. They have to approve it, and then it's done, which takes somewhere between two and four months.

I think a reasonable expectation is that they will be looking to leave the beginning of April, so they would be here through March. I've had discussions with the County Executive's Office on this, and we put in negotiation – I've got an idea of what I'd like to negotiate and get something for the museum that will help us on our balance sheets. But I'd rather not go into detail at this point.

MR. GISH:

There was a transitional phase, and I felt that it was too early to handle that until they find a new spot.

MR. ARMSTRONG:

Did you ever get paid, not necessarily for the rent, but for the utilities?

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, that's what we're negotiating, but I have some other ideas, too. We're negotiating that. To defend the County and their position, I understand their perspective and the problems that they're going through financially. Their perspective is that it's a County owned building. I know we're run by the Board, but from their perspective, they are paying rent to themselves.

MR. DUNCAN:

But they're not paying their utilities.

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, and they understand that, too. We are having a constructive dialogue, and I think we'll have a positive resolution that both parties will be happy with.

MR. GISH:

It has not just been left. Lance has been following up on this. It's just too early for us to discuss this. Any other items?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Just a small goodwill item. Carol Hart did get a director's position.

MR. GISH:

Great.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Which I think is a relief. She's got a director's position at Charlotte Museum of –

MR. GISH:

Greensboro.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Greensboro, yes.

MR. GISH:

It's an urban museum.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Her first day was yesterday, and she loved it.

MR. GISH:

Good for her.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

That's great.

MR. GISH:

Any other items?

MS. CAMBRIA:

Do we have another meeting?

MR. GISH:

Yes, the third Wednesday of February.

MR. REINHEIMER:

I think it's the 15th.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Will there be heat in here by then?

MR. REINHEIMER:

We turn the heat on after the meeting.

MR. ARMSTRONG:

We're probably better off asking for an early spring.

MR. GISH:

Can I have a motion?

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Motion.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Second.

MR. GISH:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote 11/0/0/1 Absent: Dr. Rogers.)**
Thank you.

(Mr. Gish adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.)

NG:ap

Attachments



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 18, 2012 @7:00 p.m. AGENDA**

- I. Introduction of Guests
- II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- III. Committee Reports
 - a. Treasurers Report; Ron Beattie
 - b. Development Committee Report; Ron Beattie
 - c. Education Committee Report; Gretchen Mones Oldrin
 - d. Strategic Planning; Ron Beattie
 - e. Buildings and Grounds; Kevin Peterman
- IV. Interim Director's Report
 - a. Normandy Manor update
 - b. 1937 Chrysler Imperial Update
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- V. President's Report
- VI. Nomination and Election of Officers
- VII. Old Business
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**SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM
TREASURER REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2011**

	Actual January	Actual February	Actual March	Actual April	Actual May	Actual June	Actual July	Actual August	Actual September	Actual October	Actual November	Budget December	Project Year End	Business Plan	Dollar Variance
REVENUE															
EARNED INCOME															
Admissions	29,967	57,620	52,663	46,479	50,522	42,710	55,935	19,930	15,317	22,328	15,339	45,000	453,810	700,000	(246,190)
Membership	945	11,226	4,820	4,288	648	2,585	4,455	2,850	1,350	760	995	3,300	38,222	55,000	(16,778)
Museum Store	2,298	5,170	5,032	7,956	9,078	2,345	4,839	286	325	215	163	5,000	42,707	80,000	(37,293)
Special Events	3,868	8,614	3,857	15,812	8,805	6,731	18,345	12,932	-100	4,388	13,376	8,000	104,628	140,000	(35,372)
Suffolk County Funds	0	0	0	0	117,516	146,895	0	97,930	48,965	97,930	48,965	58,750	616,951	705,000	(88,049)
Endowment	0	0	144,939	50,000	0	0	0	0	90,000	0	0	20,837	305,776	250,000	55,776
Site Use	14,175	3,930	4,425	7,236	14,175	5,194	21,207	685	7,895	1,705	21,350	6,000	107,977	160,000	(52,023)
Donations & Gifts	1,000	0	2,000	-451	0	206	20	0	10	0	20	3,337	6,142	40,000	(33,858)
Other General	41	62	635	168	116	110	181	169	82	37	1,412	42	3,055	500	2,555
Total Earned Income	52,294	86,622	218,371	131,488	200,860	206,776	104,982	134,782	163,844	127,363	101,620	150,266	1,679,268	2,130,500	(451,232)
EXPENSES															
Salaries & Wages	69,848	63,622	138,269	75,061	78,851	73,193	86,751	76,268	63,610	54,625	50,625	85,000	915,723	1,026,000	(110,277)
Benefits	23,009	18,012	32,004	18,320	20,313	25,170	18,560	21,329	24,759	15,073	16,653	22,000	255,202	279,000	(23,798)
Maintenance & Equip.	2,772	4,530	1,508	2,038	5,500	5,954	2,630	4,009	2,074	1,880	1,801	8,674	43,470	104,000	(60,530)
Insurance	7,500	7,664	7,500	7,500	7,367	7,367	7,367	7,367	7,367	7,367	7,500	7,500	89,366	90,000	(634)
Professional	10,115	15,456	24,223	16,469	23,366	25,765	34,930	25,095	14,695	21,206	13,143	14,174	238,637	170,000	68,637
Museum Store	524	4,184	7,628	1,367	743	214	1,191	0	270	-228	0	2,000	17,893	35,000	(17,107)
Telephone Communic.	2,738	2,527	2,594	2,165	-726	-14,894	2,119	3,892	2,017	2,241	3,183	2,500	10,356	30,000	(19,644)
Utilities	19,251	20,177	13,231	17,112	9,155	11,309	15,896	15,652	13,022	6,880	8,954	14,000	164,639	185,000	(20,361)
Supplies, Prgm., Ball	3,033	8,940	3,119	3,803	3,091	3,980	8,773	9,180	3,073	3,458	2,424	12,500	65,374	126,500	(61,126)
General Expenses	1,797	6,120	4,784	2,859	19,685	1,900	1,806	5,238	4,694	3,849	8,598	4,200	65,530	50,000	15,530
Total Expenses	140,587	151,232	234,960	146,694	167,345	139,958	180,023	168,030	135,581	116,351	112,881	172,548	1,866,190	2,095,500	(229,310)
Excess / Deficiency of Revenue	(88,293)	(64,610)	(16,589)	(15,206)	33,515	66,818	(75,041)	(33,248)	28,263	11,012	(11,261)	(22,282)	(186,922)	35,000	(221,922)

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

Treasurer Report

November 2011

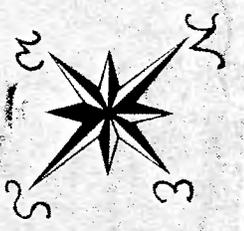
	Actual	Budget	Variance
	November	November	
Revenue			
Admission	\$ 15,339	\$ 60,000	\$ (44,661)
Membership	\$ 995	\$ 3,200	\$ (2,205)
Museum Store	\$ 163	\$ 5,000	\$ (4,837)
Special Events	\$ 13,376	\$ 8,000	\$ 5,376
Suffolk County Funds	\$ 48,965	\$ 58,750	\$ (9,785)
Endowment	0	20,833	\$ (20,833)
Site Use	\$ 21,350	\$ 8,000	\$ 13,350
Donations & Gifts	\$ 20	\$ 3,333	\$ (3,313)
Other General	\$ 1,412	42	\$ 1,370
Total Revenue	\$ 101,620	\$ 167,158	\$ (65,538)
Expenses			
Salaries & Wages	\$ 50,625	\$ 85,000	\$ (34,375)
Benefits	\$ 16,653	\$ 22,000	\$ (5,347)
Maintenance & Equipment	\$ 1,801	\$ 8,666	\$ (6,865)
Insurance	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -
Professional	\$ 13,143	\$ 14,166	\$ (1,023)
Museum Store	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ (2,000)
Telephone	\$ 3,183	\$ 2,500	\$ 683
Utilities	\$ 8,954	\$ 12,000	\$ (3,046)
Supplies, Programs, Gala	\$ 2,424	\$ 11,000	\$ (8,576)
General Expenses	\$ 8,598	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,398
Total Expenses	\$ 112,881	\$ 169,032	\$ (56,151)
Excess / Deficiency	\$ (11,261)	\$ (1,874)	\$ (9,387)

Northport Bay

VANDERBILT MUSEUM

HISTORIC HOUSE & PLANETARIUM

Centerport
Long Island
NY



VANDERBILT MANSION



Central
Hallways



Rose
Garden

PLANETARIUM



Orchid
Galleries

MARINE MUSEUM



Education Center
Carriage House
Stables

Upper Parking



Picnic
Spa



Guard
House

Lower Parking



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For more information please
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Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium*

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Valentine's Day
D I N N E R

February 11, 2012

SEATINGS AT 6:00 PM AND 8:00 PM
\$100 PER PERSON

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SUFFOLK COUNTY
VANDERBILT
MANSION • PLANETARIUM • MUSEUM





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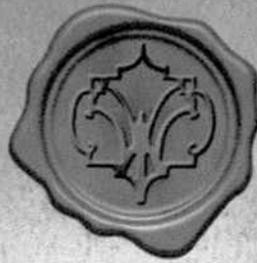
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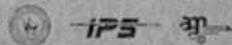
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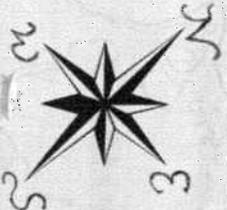
Centerport Long Island NY

Rose Garden

PLANETARIUM

VANDERBILT MANSION

MARINE MUSEUM



PERMANENT GALLERIES

TEMPORARY GALLERIES



Cornelison Columns

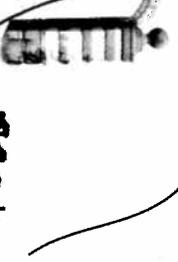
Education Center Carriage House Stables

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Guard House

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