

Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum

Board of Trustees

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York, on September 17, 2014.

The following were in attendance:

Ron Beattie – President
Gretchen Oldrin Mones - 2nd Vice President
Betsy Cambria – Treasurer
Jack DeMasi - Trustee
Michael Mule – Trustee
Stephen F. Melore – Trustee
Dr. Steven Gittelman - Trustee
Anthony Guarnischelli - Trustee
Lance Reinheimer - Executive Director
Ann Marie Pastore – Stenographer

Absent:

Joseph Dujmic – 1st Vice President
Duncan Armstrong - Trustee
Kevin Peterman – Secretary
Michelle Gegwich - Trustee
William Rogers – Trustee
Thomas Glascock - Trustee

(Mr. Ron Beattie called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.)

MR. BEATTIE:

Welcome to the September meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium. We'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

{SALUTE TO THE FLAG}

Very good. Thank you all for coming. What we'll do is ask if anybody in the public would like to address the Board. Just for the record, we are one shy of a quorum. That could be described as one taco shy of a combo plate.

{LAUGHTER}

That's on the record, but I'm sure Ann Marie will put "laughter" in there. Just the fact that anybody laughs at my jokes, I'm just pleased about that.

We will hold on the previous meeting minutes until we have a quorum. We will start with the committee reports. Finance and Treasurer's Report, Betsy.

MS. CAMBRIA:

I'm speaking from the legal sized sheet of paper. I'll specifically refer to the "Actual" amounts for July. As per Lance, he and Barbara would like to point out that the museum store made over \$10,000.

They also, additionally, made over \$10,000 in August, which isn't on this sheet yet. That's an enormous amount of money. I just think it's great. Barbara works very hard on the merchandise, and I think it shows.

Moving down, you'll see that we received a disbursement from the County of \$171,395. That is one-sixth of the amount that we should be receiving.

All the other income seems to be in line with the projected amounts.

The "Site Use" is down because previously they were deposits. In July there weren't as many deposits because they had already been accounted for.

Moving down to "Expenses," you'll note that the "Professional" expense is high. That's actually attributable to the expenses having to do with the Stoll Wing and all the improvements in that wing.

I noted that utility amount of \$24,331 was a little high because most air conditioning had gone down during the summer. However, as Lance points out, it's necessary to keep the mansion on air conditioning no matter what the weather is like. That accounts for that.

Other than that, everything is right on line.

MR. BEATTIE:

Very good. Thank you, Betsy. Any questions for Betsy?

Okay, moving on to Education and Exhibits, Gretchen.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

The Education Brochure for the new school year has been produced, packaged by Beth's educators and distributed. I have a few copies here to pass out.

When you get your copy, please notice that there are four new programs. They are helpfully marked "new." There are two new museum programs, as well as two planetarium ones. So these exciting additions are aimed at the middle and the high school level students, which we're always trying to capture more of this busy age group.

At this month's committee meeting, we started to plan for the format and content for trifolds to be mailed in or before January: one to elementary schools and one to middle and high schools.

In a letter to be written by Lance accompanying this mailing new programs, and Spring favorites like Butterflies, will be highlighted. We hope that this will help schools plan their spring visits.

Another purpose of this Spring mailing is to emphasize and promote the restored and renovated Stoll Wing. Thanks to funding by Ms. Speers, this beloved exhibit is better than ever and will have the added attraction of touch screens to explain origins and habitats of these animals. A reminder that our programs align with the New York State Common Core Learning Standards will also be included.

The Education and Exhibits Committee is very fortunate to have five Trustees involved and giving input. It's hard to find the time to attend any meeting, so I'd like to thank Ron and Michelle for coming when they can and praise Betsy and Jack for their faithful attendance and active supportive participation. Of course, everybody is welcome to come at any time.

Dave has arranged for the return of multi-award winning singer-song writer Patricia Shih, and I think everyone has a card in front of you regarding that. That will have a lot of information about who she is and what she does.

(Mr. Michael Mule entered the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

She will perform the popular "Songs in the Key of Earth" program here on November 16 and 17. School groups will see the show on November 16. November 17 is the date for public performances.

She'll return for performances on April 26 and 27. Her program is awesome, but now using the full dome capabilities, this should elevate the show to spectacular.

Dave is also looking at a new planetarium program called "Flight of the Butterflies." This would coordinate beautifully with the school museum butterfly and moth program.

Dave has helped to arrange a new diorama. It isn't up yet, but probably by the next meeting it will be. It has been put together by a member of the Astronomy Club. It's a diorama of Mount Wilson Observatory in Los Angeles with Edwin Hubble manning the telescope. That's where he worked.

Living History concluded its season this Labor Day weekend. The tour numbers continue to be amazing. There were 2,328 tours this August compared to 2,117 in August of 2013.

Megan Fitzgerald from *Newsday* visited on August 19. She toured the mansion and the grounds for an upcoming feature.

The science bus has already started to be booked. In September it was booked by Bay Shore, Central Islip and the Deer Park Library.

This summer it twice visited a unique and inspirational high school in Brooklyn named Cristo Rey. Like our bus, this school receives funding from National Grid. It was a perfect fit to pair the two entities.

Lance met with the bus educators, Roger and Tom, to establish a lead person – who is Tom – to document students served by the National Grid grant and to improve communication with Dawn and Beth regarding promotion and booking of the traveling classroom.

Educators were invited to a Boy Scout Round Table in Brightwaters, and Beth reports it was like an International Museum Day. As you know, Beth creates a separate brochure geared to the Scouts.

Lorraine is putting together a program for two groups of special needs and autistic children who will visit from Lindenhurst probably in October. When they visit, they're in for a treat because I know from personal experience that Lorraine seamlessly addresses special needs like sound or light intolerance and tailors the program to deliver content in a comfortable and friendly way.

Recently a friend visited with her two grandkids, one of whom is autistic. Besides the traditional mummy, whale shark, habitat, hall of fishes, etc, they wanted to see a planetarium show but hesitated because of one child's special circumstances.

They got in touch with Lorraine ahead of time and afterwards it was wonderful to hear these grandparents praise Lorraine for using her sensitivity and expertise to make accommodations that allowed the whole family to enjoy the planetarium program "Black Holes." I think we're very lucky to have Lorraine here with us.

I've heard from other friends that they've enjoyed picnicking here this summer at one of the most scenic places on Long Island, probably on Earth. I was happy to hear that Lance plans to place three picnic tables in strategically beautiful spots, possibly one by the boathouse, one by the tent and one by the rose garden.

That is the Education and Exhibit Report, unless anyone has any questions. Our next meeting is October 9 at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you, Gretchen. I have to say, this is the best Education Brochure we've ever seen. Thanks for coordinating. I love it. This is the first one that we actually show the mobile classroom.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

No, I believe it was in a previous one, wasn't it? Or maybe we had a separate mailing for that.

MR. REINHEIMER:

It's hard to remember from year to year. I think it was in there, but certainly not as prominent as it is this year. We were just starting to get that program off the ground. So when we were developing the Education Brochure last year, I don't think we gave the prominence that we gave it this year.

MR. BEATTIE:

It's very nicely done. I like the new programs and how they're displayed.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

I like that, too. And reading the script, which of course is written by Lorraine and Beth, it really sounds like something you want to go to see. I also love that it's aimed toward the older age group. But a lot of credit – most of the credit – goes to Lance and Pat who put all the graphics there and all the colorful vibrant atmosphere that it has.

MR. REINHEIMER:

But the credit – really, without the text, the graphics means nothing. That's done by the respective groups, the planetarium. Lorraine does the planetarium side, and Beth and her group does the museum side.

MR. BEATTIE:

Great job, as always. Any questions for Gretchen?

Okay, we'll move on to Development. I wanted to concentrate on the things that we've been talking about. I think quarterly we should have Board-run events. We talked about a golf outing. I'll head that up.

Quarter one, do we have anything that we can think of for January through March, an event that we can put on? The other quarters we have covered. The Vanderbilt Cup Marathon, I'm still talking to the County about that. That's quarter four because that would be October.

Quarter one, can anyone think of anything that we can do to for that?

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Like a Mardi Gras event?

MR. BEATTIE:

That's interesting. That would be March, right?

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

It would be a little different every year.

MR. BEATTIE:

Interesting idea.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Ron?

MR. BEATTIE:

Yes, Betsy.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Whatever it is, I think it should be held here in the planetarium building because it would be on site. There is no other place that you would have it in.

MR. BEATTIE:

Right, we wouldn't have the tent.

MS. CAMBRIA:

And the thing is, if we were snowed out or had a problem, we wouldn't have as big a loss as we would if we went off site.

MR. BEATTIE:

I don't think we should do anything off site.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Right.

MR. BEATTIE:

I mean the other thing we would do off site is the golf outing because we don't have a golf course.

MS. CAMBRIA:

That being said –

MR. BEATTIE:

We could do closest to the pin for an entire golf outing but I think people would be a little bored.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Be that as it may, I think what we're thinking about for quarter one is something that happens in this building. So if we assume that, you can kind of wiggle around with that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Valentine's Day is a big thing. We already have a wonderful dinner. We should expand on that. We might want to talk about Willie K.'s love for Rosamund. They were great lovers. She changed his whole life. There's that possibility, but certainly Valentine's Day is already an event of sorts.

MR. REINHEIMER:

And Valentine's Day is on a Saturday this year.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay, perfect. Who wants to head that one? I'm doing the golf outing and the marathon. Okay, think about it, guys. If we can have anybody come up with an event for that.

MR. REINHEIMER:

If we do use the planetarium and if we do have Valentine's Day event here, which would work nicely, I think we'd get a good response. We have the stars, and I'm sure Dave can put together a program that would be appropriate for that. We do have public programs, so we need enough lead time to inform the public that there are no regular shows that night, which is fine.

I talked to Dave about another event that he'd like to do on a Saturday. I think it was January 3, the same thing, it's a Saturday. As long as we have lead time to promote and inform the public that a special program is replacing our normal public program, I think that's fine.

We can put more – we have 100 people for a Valentine's Day event and two seatings. We can fit about 90 in here using large round tables, but of course Valentine's Day people usually want smaller tables. We have to figure out the configuration. We would have to figure out how many people we can place.

Or we can do two seatings, I guess, but that might be a little difficult. If you do the first seating and people go in the planetarium, as they turn around it might be a little hard.

MR. BEATTIE:

Well if we did –

MR. REINHEIMER:

There's a lot of planning. We do have time. I think it's a good thing to kick around.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is there a planetarium show like "Sky is for Lovers" or something like that or something about the moon?

MR. REINHEIMER:

I think that's something that Dave could develop, absolutely. It could be a live lecture.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Could we do a dance in here? A Valentine's Day Dance in here – the moon and then – I know the lighting is terrible in here, but do we have another room?

MS. CAMBRIA:

What if you had your dinner up there and then had –

MR. BEATTIE:

Programming here.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Yes, programming here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Dinner up there and programming here.

MS. CAMBRIA:

I love your idea about Mr. Vanderbilt, but how do you incorporate that into a program?

DR. GITTELMAN:

First of all, there are tons of pictures of Willie and Rosamund together. They go on this voyage and fall in love at the Galapagos, for God's

sake. It's a great story. Then we have his mistress, too, on the other side. We've never done that, Willie's lovers.

MR. BEATTIE:

I think on Valentine's Day that might be a little much – too edgy.

DR. GITTELMAN:

And then you have the fact that his first wife, even though they broke up, they were lovers until death, in a sense.

MS. CAMBRIA:

I think we should incorporate that into whatever we have.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm getting off here before I get stuck.

MR. BEATTIE:

Quarter one we'll do a Valentine's Day thing and/or a Mardi Gras thing.

Planning/Strategic Plan, I don't think anything has developed on that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

No.

MR. BEATTIE:

Community Relations Committee, has there been any work on reaching out and doing the painting of the wall out front?

MR. MULE:

I've reached out to a local Boy Scout Troop. I haven't heard back from them. I think what we should do is schedule a committee meeting and see who we can contact as a group.

MR. BEATTIE:

Does anybody want to head that committee other than me because I've been heading that one and not been doing a very good job of it. I think it would be good to have someone from the peninsula. Do you guys want to reach out to Michelle and see if you guys want to –

MR. MULE:

Yes, I'll reach out to Michelle and we'll put something together.

MR. BEATTIE:

Operations Buildings and Grounds, Kevin isn't here. Do you have anything to report?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Sure, I'll report on the progress of some of the capital projects that we're doing. The bathroom is up in the parking lot. The plumber was here. The floor is installed. It's a tile floor. They are finishing that up. It's hard to say when they'll finish. We're on the last mile. That should be opening, I would hope, in a month or six weeks. That's a long time in coming.

They started to work on the stairs, the cement stairs that are leading down to the Stoll Wing. That has started. They're making some progress there. They've been probably been working on that about two weeks.

They're still working on – I don't know if at the last meeting I reported that they did bulk remediation in the inside stairway of the mansion. We found the source of the leak. It was an internal pipe. That's been cleaned up. That stairway is over by the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's bedroom.

I was surprised how good condition that those wood stairs are and that whole hallway is once it was cleaned up.

The Moroccan Courtyard, they worked on it and finished it, but it was leaking the other day. So we'll get on top of that and see why it's still leaking after it was fixed. They did some mold remediation there and also in the guide's room.

They're progressing on water intrusion in the curator's office, Stephanie's area. They are working on the outside wall and painting that. They finished two walls on that. There are a couple more walls to go.

That's the report on Buildings and Grounds.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay, any questions on Buildings and Grounds?

Technology, there's nothing to report on.

Human Resources, we had a couple of emails that went back and forth. There was nothing pressing on that. Tom isn't here, so we'll hold off.

Before I forget, can I get a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting?

MR. DEMASI:

So moved.

MR. BEATTIE:

Jack made the motion.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

Second.

MR. BEATTIE:

Without objection? **(Vote: 9/0/0/6 Absent: Mr. Dujmic, Mr. Peterman, Ms. Gegwich, Mr. Glascock & Mr. Rogers. One vacancy.)**

Executive Director's Report.

MR. REINHEIMER:

We did well this summer, but when I looked at the numbers on admissions from grounds and planetarium, we were down almost 15 percent, 14.8 percent. This is just for July and August when comparing it to the same time as last year.

We brought in \$156,000 those two months from admissions, which is down \$27,000 from last year, which is \$183,000.

Looking at the individual components, general admission, this year was \$68,500. That's down 17 percent or \$14,600 from last year. We had \$83,000 in admissions.

The mansion tours, we basically broke even. We had \$16,600 in mansion tours. That's about what we did last year. That's the same.

The planetarium, during the day time, that was the biggest reduction in revenue. It was down 26 percent or \$18,300 from last year's \$71,000.

However, the night time planetarium show was up. I reported the same at the last meeting for the beginning of the summer. Night time planetarium shows were up 40 percent or \$18,700 up from \$13,300.

What does this mean? Overall the planetarium when you take the two day and night shows together it was down 15 percent or \$12,900.

We haven't felt the reduction in admissions in cash flow. I don't have the site use revenue in ALTRU so I can't give that exact number or compare that as easily.

My feeling is that site use, sale of weddings, we booked 12 weddings this year. The deposits were higher this year than they were last year.

Even though the music festivals this year were not in that two month period, we had two music festivals. This year we brought in \$44,000 on those two music festivals gross. We brought in \$28,000 two weeks ago with the Grateful Dead Festival. We netted \$14,000 from that one day.

We split that with the producer who pays the band and takes the financial risk. We had a great day. I was glad to hear Michael didn't report any complaints from neighbors.

We filled probably three-quarters of the beach parking lot that day. We shuttled – we had cars come in on the property through the gate by the curator's cottage, dropped their passengers off, and then we picked up the drivers.

Conversely, when people left, we asked them to have their passengers wait by the front gate, and we shuttled down drivers. You can shuttle down seven drivers at a time rather than one car full of people. It worked very smoothly.

We did have two medical emergencies during that show. A woman had a seizure. She had a history of seizures. The rescue was called. They responded. Suffolk County Police responded. Centerport Fire Department very quickly responded with several Chiefs, in addition to the rescue. They were here pretty quickly.

Our staff responded quickly. Our head of security responded quickly. I responded. We brought the AED just in case she was unconscious and in case it was a heart condition. She was conscious, and it was a seizure.

Then later in the day a woman's baby was stung by a couple bees. She felt the baby was having an allergic reaction. She called 911. We picked her up, brought her up in a golf cart, so she could meet the rescue at the front gate and get attention as quickly as possible. The baby did not go with the rescue unit.

We did have two medical emergencies, but I was very proud at how our staff reacted very quickly.

Last weekend we had the Jaguar Car Show. In the four summers that I've been here, this was the greatest attendance and the biggest show that we've had as far as car shows. This is probably similar to what they had in past years. They always had a great response to these shows.

I was really surprised because people did park down the streets off the property and we were not expecting that. It was a total shock to me. It was the first time that we spilled out as much as we did in the streets with a car show.

They had about 120 cars there. There were 750 paying guests. We brought in \$5,100 in that one day. We have had some good days and good responses.

Mid Summer Night Dances, we had eight dances this year. We averaged about 75 people. We grossed \$15,000 and netted about \$6,100 from those dances. That's very successful. The people that came really enjoyed it.

We used Broadway 51, who provided food. The food was good. Everybody liked it. Actually people wanted it to extend through September. So next year we will look at maybe having a little bit longer season than we did this year.

That concludes my report. Any questions?

MR. BEATTIE:

I think you had one thing, Lance – I looked at your notes regarding the Normandy tenants moved out.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, thank you.

MR. BEATTIE:

You're welcome. I'm cheating; I'm looking at his notes.

MR. REINHEIMER:

The Normandy tenants did move out the end of August, so Normandy Manor is now empty. I did have a Suffolk County Legislator come here yesterday, Legislator McCaffrey, to tour the property. He is from the Lindenhurst/Babylon area. He's new to the Legislature.

He was very positive about the property. He was very happy to see it. We took him through the mansion, the planetarium, Normandy Manor, the boathouse and the seaplane hangar. He got a good overview of the property. It was a very positive day.

Regarding the tenants moving out, we do have some issues that we addressed before, as far as deciding on what we're doing with that building in the future.

MR. BEATTIE:

But I think carrying over from the last month, we had a discussion on what we should be doing with it. I think in the short-term, and short-term being the next two years, as soon as these issues are remedied we should put it back on the market again. That's my suggestion.

We had a considerable discussion last month. I think we tabled it. At this point, just to give Lance direction on where we should go, let's keep that revenue going for at least the next two years. Then we can see where we're at in turning this boat around. Maybe we will have a better use for it then.

What does everybody feel about that?

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

I think the tenants before they left should have showed Lance where to put the umbrellas when it rains.

{LAUGHTER}

MR. BEATTIE:

Well certainly over the TV, as I understand it.

{LAUGHTER}

Does anybody want to make a motion on that to continue at least putting it back out on the market after these issues are remedied?

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

I definitely think so.

MR. MELORE:

I'll second that.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay.

MR. MULE:

Is there any discussion on this?

MR. BEATTIE:

Sure, go ahead.

MR. MULE:

It's sort of putting the cart before the horse. Why don't we have some of the issues remedied or an indication where –

MR. REINHEIMER:

I said issues and then you ask, what does that mean? It's really house mechanics. The plumbing and electric need to be looked at. There needs to be some work, especially on the plumbing. There is very little water pressure in the house. The pipes are all corroded. Twice in two years we've had waste pipes crack, and we needed to replace them.

If you have a full-time family in there – we were lucky we had tenants that were there maybe 60 nights in two and a half years. It's going to put a strain on the house. We have to make sure that the mechanics of the house are in good order if we go down that route.

MR. MULE:

I would just suggest that we have that sort of check done, and then it be brought back to the Board.

MR. BEATTIE:

To find out what the magnitude is. I agree.

MS. CAMBRIA:

One thing I'd like to say.

MR. BEATTIE:

Betsy.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Before we rent it again, if we do rent it again, I think the show house was a terrific concept. It got us out there. It was very positive. If we could ever do that again, I think it would be worth doing.

MR. MULE:

I would agree. In the interim, maybe at some point we could do something to showcase the house, particularly since there are no tenants at this point.

MR. BEATTIE:

Could you talk to Claudia and see if she would be willing to put something together?

MS. CAMBRIA:

Actually, at the E&E meeting, we talked about maybe having it done during the holidays, but I think that's too soon. If we're going to think about that, maybe we could do it at a time that there is a theme.

MR. BEATTIE:

Valentine's Day. We could work it out with the same event.

MS. CAMBRIA:

It's all in the timing.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The building was not purchased to be a residence. With that being said, one of the most important concepts behind preservation is keeping the building occupied. When you leave a building vacant, it degrades.

However, that being said, it would make good sense to perhaps at least bring the building into the fold for a period of time before it gets re-rented and allow some of the public to go through and see, "This is what it was."

At least we can introduce the building as if it's a member of the collection. When it's not being rented, make it part of the exhibits, a temporarily walk-through, or whatever you want to do. At least make it feel like it's part of the collection, and then go out and rent it.

MR. BEATTIE:

Great idea.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But I really feel that we should show why we have it and how it fits with the rest of the building collections.

MR. BEATTIE:

And even if we can find a temporary exhibit to house that, that would be –

DR. GITTELMAN:

Sure.

MR. BEATTIE:

Maybe we could talk to Hecksher or anybody who wants to house some kind of collection there as a temporary exhibit.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

How did it become Normandy Manor? Is that from Norman who lived there?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I always thought it was because of the architecture.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

No, Norman lived there. That guy was a real crook. If he's alive, it's one thing. But if he died, they just had to twist him in the ground he was so crooked.

MR. BEATTIE:

We do have to remember that we are on record here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I move that we leave that out of the exhibit. But there is a certain component as to what that building was used for. It was used for growing flowers to keep in the estate.

If one year we had visiting gardeners who came in and specializing in flowers, it was used for growing vegetables. Even if we just make it an outside garden and walk-through and say, "This is where the curator lived," or, "This is where the groundskeeper lived," or whatever you want to say. Let's make it feel like it's part of the family.

MR. BEATTIE:

Great idea.

MR. REINHEIMER:

The master gardeners are doing a vegetable garden. They are sending over this year about 1,000 pounds of food to various food pantries. That was a grant by Goldman Sachs. They did restoration of some of the herb gardens that are on the side of the building of Normandy Manor.

There is active gardening going on by volunteers. There was an excellent – which I don't have with me – article in the *Long Islander* about the gardeners and the work that they're doing with the community by providing fresh food for those that go to the food pantries. That's being done now.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Even if you tie it into some of the garden clubs, Day Lilly Club, etc. they visit various houses. Let this be one of the places they visit for a limited period of time and then rent it.

MR. BEATTIE:

Good idea. Okay, the President's Report, I just passed around a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement for us receiving an eagle specimen from the Heckscher Museum. I think we discussed this a little bit, but we have an actual agreement that I'd like to sign today. Did everyone have a chance to take a look at it? I don't think there's any rocket science here.

MR. MULE:

I just had a question as far as do we have – is there insurance coverage in place?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, that was one of the sticking points. I reviewed this with Stephanie. She did a lot of the groundwork when the agreement came in.

There are two things. Because this is a very rare bird, to assign a value is very difficult. We wanted Hecksher to come up with a value and then when they did, they set it at maximum liability for us at \$5,000. This is a long-term loan to the museum. My concern was that if you have a 20 or 30 year loan, \$5,000 in 20 or 30 years is going to be worth a lot less.

It was our suggestion to protect Heckscher and because it's the professional thing to do is to put in an escalating clause or tie it to the CPI so that the \$5,000 or the equivalent of \$5,000 is the maximum liability that we would have for this specimen.

This is part of the original collection of the Heckscher Museum, so this is a very important piece. My understanding is it hasn't been displayed. They really don't have a place for it. Stephanie felt that the Vanderbilt Museum being Eagle's Nest that this was an appropriate addition to our collection and to the bird collection that we have in the Memorial Wing.

MR. MULE:

Lance, is it covered by our insurance?

MR. REINHEIMER:

We have fine arts insurance, and we also have insurance – Suffolk County is self-insured, so it would be covered under the fine arts and/or the umbrella liability we have through Suffolk County.

MR. MULE:

Just to check, was there any additional endorsements or anything like that?

MR. REINHEIMER:

In that insurance, no.

MR. MULE:

That hasn't been required –

MR. REINHEIMER:

I would think so, with the \$5,000 liability that –

MR. MULE:

Do we have an insurance broker just to check?

MR. REINHEIMER:

I can check on that, absolutely.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Where will it be?

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's up to Stephanie where we would put it. She does have a case that she's getting for it from another museum on loan. She would place it in the appropriate place.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Just a request, and not to tell Stephanie what to do, but as a request, the bird collection has been something that has become rather contentious. We tend to just put the birds somewhere, give them a number or name and we don't say anything about them.

I strongly recommend that if we're going to take something in like this that at least let's explain something about what it eats, where it lives and why it doesn't live here anymore. We should put something out there a little bit more than, "Oh look. Here's a funny looking bird."

Maybe we can go one little step more and make it a valuable piece. I think that would be nice.

MR. BEATTIE:

Sure.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That goes for all the birds.

MR. BEATTIE:

Could I ask for a conditional motion, as long as the insurance is covered, that we can enter into this agreement with the Heckscher?

MR. MULE:

I'll make a motion.

MR. DEMASI:

Second.

MR. BEATTIE:

Without objection? **(Vote: 9/0/0/6 Absent: Mr. Dujmic, Mr. Peterman, Ms. Gegwich, Mr. Glascock & Mr. Rogers. One vacancy.)**

MR. REINHEIMER:

And just to address the insurance issue, what I'm going to do is I can send this Memorandum of Agreement to the County's Insurance and

Risk Management Section for their review and advice. We get the fine arts insurance, I think, through them.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay, the second thing that I forgot to forward to everybody for this was the proposed organizational chart. The Executive Board and I over the past couple of months have gone over this. I worked with Lance on how it kind of jives with the way that things are operating right now.

Again, I forgot to send it to the rest of the group. We did include it in our budget proposal, I believe, for this.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, I sent it on to the County Executive's Office. It certainly was a vast improvement over the obsolete organizational chart that has been appearing in the County Budget.

I haven't told Ron but they modified it because they look at functional areas. They don't look at specific titles. They change it to functional areas.

Essentially, it's the same. It's pretty similar to what we presented. That will be in the -- the County's Budget comes out on Fridays. It will be part of the narrative about the museum and the organizational chart will be in that narrative.

MR. BEATTIE:

Basically what it did was it kind of aligned the organizational structure to the functional structure of our committees so there would be a committee basically for every direct report into Lance. There would be E&E, Finance, Operations, and Development. They would be the four direct reports.

I will email that to you guys. I don't think we need to take any action on it, but just so you guys can take a look at it. Maybe at the next meeting we'll formalize it. I'd like to see what the County modified it to.

The "Under the Stars Café" is moving along. I have been continuing to speak with the County and also to a designer who we might bring on who specializes in that for this corner for the "Under the Stars Café." I will continue to work on that.

Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque is going to be September 29. It's coming up. Betsy, do you have a list of who contributed? Did I contribute already?

MS. CAMBRIA:

No, no one did yet.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay, it's \$20. Let the record show that I am opening my wallet and taking \$20 out. It's a great event. Let the record show that Anthony Guarnischelli has also given his money in.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Should I write my name on it?

MR. BEATTIE:

I think Betsy's got it under control. I think everybody else here has given their money now to Betsy. It's a great event. I think I mentioned last time we ask that if any of the Trustees has a special recipe that they want to bring, please do. I always bring a jambalaya and I flip the burgers. If everybody could make it there, the staff really appreciates us appreciating them. It's at noon. Are there any questions on Staff Appreciation Day?

MS. CAMBRIA:

Yes.

MR. BEATTIE:

Yes, Betsy.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Would you please send out a note to the people who aren't here?

MR. BEATTIE:

Will do.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Because some of them probably will come.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay, I'll send out a special note to the rest of the Board.

Does anybody have any old business to discuss? Anybody have any new business to discuss?

MS. CAMBRIA:

Yes.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay, Betsy.

MS. CAMBRIA:

I think if we have to move on with the "Under the Stars Café" that it would affect the bottom line for the planetarium. Possibly more people will want to go to the shows since the numbers were down 15 percent. I think it would behoove us to move on that as soon as possible.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay.

Any other new business?

MR. DEMASI:

I have a suggestion that in terms of – and just sort of building off of what has been said – I think it would be a really nice idea if we threw a reception of some sort. We don't have to go overboard but for school administrators in an effort to get them on board. Once they're committed and once they recognize what's going on, it will lubricate, I think, a fair amount of income in student trips.

What better way than – first of all, educators are easy to bribe. Give them wine and cheese and they're your friend for life. They love free food. Forty years in education I can say that that's true. Anyway, I think that's something we might want to explore particularly between now and the time that they do their budgets, which is starting early spring.

MS. CAMBRIA:

What would you do with them when they come?

MR. DEMASI:

I'd say bring them here. Give them a show. Maybe give them a walk-through the house. Just do it up.

MR. BEATTIE:

Even a sampling of the programs.

MR. DEMASI:

Absolutely.

MR. BEATTIE:

I think it's a great idea. I wouldn't mind if you headed up that committee.

MR. DEMASI:

Sure.

MS. CAMBRIA:

I have another question. As a former administrator, what's a good day of the week?

MR. DEMASI:

There are no good days of the week. It just going to be catch-as-catch-can. I think we'll just do it on nights that they don't usually have school board meetings and those kinds of things. Week day nights are usually pretty decent. Tuesday nights are an off night. Wednesday might be a rough night.

MR. BEATTIE:

And that's usually an off night for us, too, so that's perfect. Great idea.

Okay, can I have a motion to adjourn?

MS. CAMBRIA:

Motion.

MR. BEATTIE:

Steve seconds that motion. Without objection? **(Vote: 9/0/0/6
Absent: Mr. Dujmic, Mr. Peterman, Ms. Gegwich, Mr. Glascock
& Mr. Rogers. One vacancy.)**

(Mr. Ron Beattie adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.)

RB:ap

Attachments