

Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum

Board of Trustees

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on October 19, 2016 in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Ron Beattie – President
Gretchen Oldrin Mones – 1st Vice President
Jack DeMasi – 2nd Vice President
Betsy Cambria – Treasurer
Kevin Peterman – Secretary
Michael Mule – Trustee
Dr. Steven Gittelman – Trustee
James Kelly – Trustee
Anthony Guarnischelli – Trustee
Michelle Gegwich – Trustee
Lance Reinheimer – Executive Director
Elizabeth Wayland-Morgan – Associate Director
Mark Borstelmann – Staff
Jennifer Mish – Legislative Aide, District No. 18
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Excused Absence:

Terry Pearsall - Trustee
Kathleen Giamo – Trustee

Absent:

Thomas Glascock – Trustee
Stephen Melore – Trustee

(Mr. Ron Beattie called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.)

MR. BEATTIE:

Hello, everyone and welcome to the October meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium. We'll start as always with the Pledge of Allegiance.

{SALUTE TO THE FLAG}

Thank you, everybody. Thank you all for coming. We'll, as always, ask if anybody in the public would like to address the Board. No takers on that. We'll go to the Treasurer's Report, Betsy.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Okay, I direct your attention to the legal size Treasurer Report, specifically the "Actuals" for the month of August. I've gone over this with Lance. The "Admissions" is fairly stable.

If you move down to the Suffolk County Funds, that's quite a large increase. That has to do with two-month's payment of the Hotel/Motel Tax. It's catching up to the amount that they will be paying.

Just prior to that, under "Special Events" there is a decrease from the previous month. But during the month of August, we had special events, which included Alex Torres. There was a Yelp event, which was very successful, as well as the Thursday night dances.

The total earned income was considerably larger for the month of August. Under "Expenses," expenses are lower than the month of July, which is always good. The excess revenue is considerable, but as I said earlier, that really has to do with payment by the County of the Hotel/Motel Tax. That's about it.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you, Betsy. Any questions for Betsy?

Okay we'll move to the Education and Exhibit's Committee, Gretchen.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

The 2016-2017 Education Brochure is out and looking good. I see you don't have a copy of it, but I can give you one. What I especially like is how clever, flexible and even decorative it is.

I have a copy. I'll just demonstrate what I'm talking about. It's designed to open completely up and to be placed as a poster. This side has the poster

value, very decorative for a classroom and constant reminder of who we are, where we are and what we have.

Then the other side -- and before I go to the other side I just want to say this has some great pictures of kids who actually come to programs here and a couple of quotes from kids, which are always precious, like this one from Julia, a third grader. It says "I loved our trip to the planetarium because they taught us about cool planets and we saw what they looked like up close."

Over on the other side, we have Drew, a fifth grader, who said, "My favorite part was when we got to draw the fish in the museum exhibit."

This is great because it's both sides of the education program, the museum and the planetarium.

This part is, of course, the whole heart of the matter because it has the planetarium school programs, the museum programs, the history and science. When you get your copy of the brochure, please notice we have a new planetarium program called "Earth, Moon and Sun." So that's the brochure.

There are a lot of things that are not in the brochure. Lorraine has put together a brand new program for Earth Science students. Those are usually students who are in the eighth or ninth grade. She customizes this program after discussing student needs with their teachers; and, already hundreds of students have been booked for this program. That's just for October alone.

Tomorrow the ninth grade classes from Mt. Sinai will be here for this program. That's a group of Earth Science classes, who will be here for the program.

Locust Valley students are coming in on Halloween. Although Lorraine has put a lot of effort into customizing that Halloween Day performance, I hear her biggest concern is what costume to wear. Should she go with her traditional Einstein outfit or should she change it up to Medusa? It's a big decision.

Plainedge eighth and ninth grade Earth Science students have also booked for this exciting new program. Next year this program will likely be in the brochure.

In addition to developing new programs, Lorraine designated a goal this year to have students appreciate our Konica-Minolta projector. She wants students to understand how much better our projector is over video or TV.

Other things that aren't listed in the brochure are programs Beth is running, like the Halloween themed workshop this Friday evening called Mr. V's Spooky Science Lab. Kids will explore the Invertebrate Gallery and the Bird Room collections in the dark with flashlights. They will make their own specimen jars.

Other fall fun programs are being featured for enjoyment by the public. "Fright Night" and "Monster Mash" are the seasonal laser shows. The popular show, "Haunted Skies" is playing in the planetarium. This acclaimed show was created in-house and gives audiences an experience not available anywhere else.

Another special fall offering was the October 16 performance by Toby Tobias of original songs interspersed with small vignettes about his life in Johannesburg and Jerusalem and enhanced by photos and video projected onto the planetarium dome.

National Grid will consider approving this year's funding grant for the traveling bus. Booking is proceeding as if the funds will be granted. As always, things are hopping in the museum. In August there were 2,501 tours. This compares to 2,342 tours in August of 2015.

This September there were 1,665 tours as compared to last September's 1,597.

Living History performances on Labor Day weekend were successful with 317 people attending.

Publicity about the return of the tours appeared in the September 1 edition of *The Times of Smithtown*. If you did not see it, I have a copy to pass around.

Stephanie filed an application with ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) to request historic status for the power house equipment. She received notification of a pending decision after their meeting on November 12. I will pass that letter around.

She attended a NYSC grant seminar at the Smithtown Library on September 26 and also recorded a radio interview with Chris Kretz of LI History Project.

Stephanie hosted the Huntington Leadership group on September 29, the same day that a TV show was filming in the courtyard and mansion. And, as always, Stephanie was able to do the impossible with grace.

This letter that Jack is going to read to us is by the Foundation.

MR. DEMASI:

"Dear Stephanie, thank you again for your herculean efforts yesterday, September 29, 2016, for the Leadership Huntington History Day Workshop. The tour of the Vanderbilt Mansion was one of the standouts of the entire day. Your knowledge and expertise on the Vanderbilt family and their gold coast mansion is truly astonishing."

"We were honored that you made yourself available to be out guide while coordinating the television shoot."

"The Vanderbilt is an important part of our local history. It was wonderful to visit this iconic property and see it preserved so beautifully. It is a credit to you and your staff and the incredible job all of you are doing to keep the Vanderbilt legacy alive for our community and the rest of the world. Warm regards, Stephanie Gotard, Program Director of Leadership Huntington Foundation."

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Thank you.

Work on the Gardiner Grant continues on the second floor of the Marine Museum. So far over 925 fish specimens have been restored.

George Dante will be visiting to remove some skin mounted fish specimens on the first floor of the Marine Museum. This work will involve only a small percent of the taxidermy, so the exhibit area will remain open.

The restoration project was mentioned in *Newsday* who did a piece on the local Gardiner Grant projects. If you did not see that, I will pass it around. That ends the report. Does anyone have questions?

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you, Gretchen. That poster is absolutely a great idea.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Yes, staff and Lance, Elizabeth, Pat – and Pat does a lot of work on it – they really outdid themselves. It was great last year, too, but this year, I think

it's even better. I especially like the photos of the kids and the quotes and placement of everything. I just think it's excellent.

MR. BEATTIE:

Just the fact that it's a poster and you can hang it up in classrooms. You're getting more exposure than sitting in a file cabinet somewhere. Great work. One thing that I was remiss on, we had a quorum before but we didn't vote on the previous meeting minutes. They were distributed to everybody. Can I have a motion to accept the minutes?

MR. PETERMAN:

Motion.

MR. KELLY:

Second.

MR. BEATTIE:

Without objection? **(Vote: 9/0/0/6 Not Present: Dr. Gittelman. Absent: Mr. Pearsall, Mr. Glascock, Mr. Melore, Ms. Giamo. One vacant position.)**

Moving on, Operations, Buildings and Grounds, Kevin.

MR. PETERMAN:

Well, the usual few items are still hanging out there – the same thing I mention every month, which is the porch and the habitat.

The good news is that Mr. Vanderbilt's bedroom, the plaster has been repaired. It probably had something to do with the filming of a TV show.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Yes, I think that really moved things along.

MR. PETERMAN:

If that's the case, then we should get more crews in here so we can get everything done.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Absolutely.

MR. PETERMAN:

The good news is that we have had some progress. If you have any questions about Buildings and Grounds, just let me know. That's pretty much it for the report.

MR. BEATTIE:

Thank you, Kevin.

HR Committee, Mr. Glascock was not able to make it today. I don't think we have any real pressing issues on HR, do we?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, we have a couple of issues that we have to have the committee meet over. There are two things, which I brought up at the last meeting, which was conflict of interest, to review that policy.

The second thing that has come up since then is also to update our definition of exempt employees, especially as it pertains to the changes in federal standards for salaries and determining exempt employees and who is exempted and who is not. Those are two issues that we should be meeting over.

I did speak to Tom, and he does want to have a meeting. We just didn't schedule it yet.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay, and actually just for a number of other reasons why it's come up, I think we also have to start to make a plan for the new minimum wage legislation that was passed. I think we at least have to start planning for that.

MR. REINHEIMER:

We actually have been able to increase salaries for our part-time people over time. Over the past several years, there were part-timers that were making in the range of \$8 or \$9. They are more in the \$12 range now. We're bringing salaries up.

Part of the reason for that is to stabilize our work force. We have 60 to 70 part-time employees, especially in the planetarium admissions where it is a very high pressured job working with the public. They are answering questions and telling people about the estate.

We need to keep our people here. My thinking is it's less expensive to pay people that are worth it to stay here then it is to train new employees. With that being said, we do still have turn over with employees partly due to the job market. A lot of people coming out of college with degrees, we have a lot of people working here in the planetarium. I think most of the people working in the planetarium are in school or graduated from college. They

are in college, I should say, or graduated from college. Some may even have advanced degrees, and they are just waiting to find that full-time job.

I always congratulate them when they leave because they did a great job here. But they need to go on and start their careers. They get good experience here.

We have raised salaries in order to upgrade our work force.

MR. BEATTIE:

Great.

I guess we're moving right along. I didn't miss a committee, did I?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, you missed the Reaccreditation Committee and the Neighbors Committee.

Reaccreditation, Elizabeth will address that in Steve Gittelman's absence. Whatever you want to address first.

MR. BEATTIE:

Let's do Accreditation Committee.

MS. WAYLAND-MORGAN:

I prepared a packet for everyone. The reaccreditation is through American Alliance of Museums. We will need to prepare everything by November 2019. We have a couple of years.

In this packet you will see a summary of required core attachments. Some have been completed, some are pending and some are being currently reviewed.

There are also other documents, such as a collections plan and conservation plan. Those are pending reviews as well.

Then we have to review the previous self-study and then review the previous visitor committee report, as well as previous accreditation commission decision letter. Then we can prepare our new self-study and submit that by November 2019.

MR. BEATTIE:

Great. So we're moving right along.

MS. WAYLAND-MORGAN:

Yes, we are.

MR. BEATTIE:

Great. Any other questions for Elizabeth?

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

I'd just like to say this was very nicely done. It's all laid out and so easy to see where we are going and what we've done.

MS. WAYLAND-MORGAN:

Thank you.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

It just seems so much more doable now. Thank you for doing this.

MR. BEATTIE:

That's great.

MS. OLDRIN MONES:

Yes, it's very encouraging.

MR. BEATTIE:

So let's move on to the President's Report.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Do you mean Executive Director's Report?

MR. BEATTIE:

I'm sorry. Yes, that's what I meant. I promoted Lance.

{LAUGHTER}

MR. REINHEIMER:

Thank you, Ron, but I decline the promotion.

{LAUGHTER}

First I want to bring up that I speak to Consuelo Vanderbilt quite often and she was planning on coming out here. As a matter of fact, I mentioned to Ron and a couple of other Trustees that she was planning on coming out to this meeting. She really wants to come out here. She feels terrible that she hasn't been here since she's been appointed legacy member.

However, something came up tonight and it's her ninth wedding anniversary. Her husband sprung on her yesterday that he was taking her out tonight for a surprise. In order to have another second nine years, she decided she couldn't make this meeting. She really apologized for that.

Moving along, she was here recently for a TV shoot. German TV was here with her and spent the day with her. She was basically here showing the estate, talking about her family and the connections to this estate. We should be getting a lot of German visitors soon.

Every little bit helps us. It was a great day for the shoot. It was very clear, and it was nice that she was here.

She's also working – I went in a couple years ago to the Vanderbilt YMCA, which is on 47th Street in Manhattan. The building was given to the YMCA by I think William Vanderbilt. It has been there since it was given to the YMCA. It's a very active facility.

We were there because there is a group of young high school students that come on a regular basis. It's a peer mentoring program that is facilitated by a little bit older adults or younger adults, I should say, to get these young people together and discuss issues that are important to them and assign them projects to do. I went there with Consuelo and it was just great. It gives you faith that there is hope in the future for this next generation coming up.

She is working on – and we talked about it that day – bringing this group of young high school and I think early high school students out to the Vanderbilt. She would sponsor the transportation. She would provide the lunch. We're looking at this group coming out – that day that I was there, there were about 30 students there – to come out here Saturday, November 12. It's really in the preliminary stage. I just talked to her two days ago about this.

She had two dates. One was December 3 and other was November 12. December 3, that's the night of our holiday dinner, by the way, so we already have 50 people registered for that. If there are any Trustees that are interested, please let us know. I also feel the weather is better in November. December could be a little dicey.

She's working on promoting the museum. A person that works with her also in images and promoting, Montgomery Fraser, wants to bring her out here for another fashion shoot. We're looking at some time next week, next

Wednesday or Thursday of next week. She's working at promoting the museum and her heritage, which is very positive for us.

She is disappointed that she couldn't make it tonight. She really wants to come out for the next meeting.

We also had, as Gretchen mentioned, the TV shoot for two days. TBS network was here shooting a show. It was a very positive experience here.

Related to that, I went to the 24 Hampton's International Film Festival reception held by the Suffolk County Film Commission to promote the museum and see if I could make any connections there.

(Dr. Steve Gittelman entered the meeting at 7:25 p.m.)

I did make a connection with a location agent. She sent a photographer out here two days later. They were taking pictures indoors and outdoors. She mostly promotes fashion shoots. She's local. She's out here in the Hamptons. She lives in the Hamptons. She promotes, and it costs us nothing. The photographer who was here probably three and a half hours, she pays for that. It's just another avenue to get us out there in the media.

I ran into Patrick Askin who a year or two ago shot "Nick and Nickie," an independent film that was shot here with Consuelo Vanderbilt and the actress Sean Young, who was here. He is still putting that film together. I spent a lot of time with Patrick, and we're sending out a press release promoting that we met with Patrick and we were at the film festival and just getting the word out there that Suffolk County and the Vanderbilt Museum are aggressively seeking film shoots, fashion shoots and TV shows.

It's coming together. I think we got some goodwill out of the shoot from TBS. All these scouts and industry people talk to each other, even though it's a large industry in New York City. They all know each other. Word gets out that when you come to the Vanderbilt Museum, we facilitate their shoots and we make it as easy for them as possible to get what they want, which helps us promote the museum and also provides a significant income.

Progress on the café, I just checked up on that today. The plans were submitted to Public Works revised with the changes that the Health Department wanted, which basically had to do with plumbing and sewage. We had to put in whole new septic system and connect into that rather than connecting into the current system. Those revisions have been made. We sent this to Public Works, and they are supposed to be issuing the building permit as the plans stand today by the end of this week or the beginning of

next week, so we should be getting the building permit soon. We're making progress there.

Capital Program, revised delivery date I reported last meeting that the ADA compliant tram will be coming in September. It took some time to get the purchase order through the County system. That delayed it, so now we're looking at the first week of December. So I'm hoping it's here by early December.

This vehicle is heated. It has space for a wheelchair visitor to be transported. It's all enclosed from the weather. It also has heavier duty suspension, larger wheels, which will be better for the cobblestones.

We've done a lot of tree work this year. We had tree work done today. This year we spent \$14,000 on tree work. We had some trees taken down that were dead over by the curator's cottage. We had some work done on the way down to the mansion on trees that were trimmed and some were taken down that were dead and really were potentially safety hazards for our visitors because it was where our visitors were. This helps enhance the property. It really makes a difference.

A couple weeks ago getting ready for the fall, we purchased a new leaf blower, a \$7,000 equipment purchase that was included in the budget, but it's something we needed.

The one we have is fifteen years old. We spend more time trying to get it to run and fix it than it actually works. The guys are excited. They can't wait for the leaves to fall. I caught a couple of them shaking trees.

{LAUGHTER}

Now that we have the fall thought about, it's going to be winter. I'm working on – we have to do some work on the plow to get that operational. But we also have a bucket loader that sometimes starts and sometimes it doesn't. The tires don't keep air in them. The tires are dry rotted. It really needs to be replaced. We're looking to do something to replace the bucket loader.

I don't know -- Tony, do you know anybody in the equipment field, but we need something that can load salt onto our dump truck.

Operating Budget, the County is in the process of adopting the 2017 Operating Budget. How that affects us is that the Hotel/Motel Tax winds through the County Operating Budget.

State legislation for the Hotel/Motel Tax names the Vanderbilt in that legislation. We get 10 percent of the Suffolk County Hotel/Motel funds. The funds run about \$10 million, so this year the County Executive included \$1.1 million for the museum. That's a significant increase from last year. It's \$50,000 more than we included in our Operating Budget request.

I appeared before the Parks Committee. I wasn't planning on talking. They called me up. I thought it was important to be there in case they had questions, and they did have questions.

I have to say that the reception was very positive. I think they are understanding that the museum is making great progress. It's looking good. It's their park, it's their museum and it's their property. I think they're a little bit more sympathetic to the needs of the museum. They know that the Hotel/Motel money that we receive is put to good use.

I think they will pretty much keep that distribution as we requested, which was \$1,050,000. That's my hope. We'll know in a couple weeks or a week and a half when the adoption for the County budget becomes more finalized. But they did seem receptive to us. I was happy that it was a good reception.

The audit of the 2015 year, our financial papers and part of the financial statement should be coming out soon. They are just finishing up. They had a couple of questions this week. That draft report should be coming out within the next week or so. We'll meet with the auditors to discuss the draft audit.

Events coming up, we've got the Association of Suffolk County Historical Society meeting here on Saturday, November 5. Stephanie and I are hosting them. They came to us. They wanted to meet here. They go to different historic places to tour and just to learn more. This is the invitation that they sent out to their members.

It's goodwill. We're hosting this group. It's just goodwill in the industry to have people come here and to see the property and everything that we're doing.

We have the tree lighting November 26. It's almost here. That's the first Saturday after Thanksgiving. That's an event for the community to come here. There is no charge. We have the tree lighting. In the past, we have had the Northport Chorale. We're trying to confirm with them that they will be coming again this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be here. Cookies and hot chocolate are served. It's a nice event for everybody.

Then, of course, I mentioned earlier, the Holiday Dinner, which is December 3. We increased the price to \$115 this year for non-members and \$100 for members. As I mentioned before, too, we have 50 reservations so far.

That's my report. I'll be happy to answer any questions that anybody may have.

Can I just say one more thing, seeing Steve here. Steve, Elizabeth, Associate Director, spoke about the reaccreditation process. She handed out a map of the process. We're starting -- now that Elizabeth is on board we're going to start to go forward with the reaccreditation that Steve is heading up, too, on the Board.

So 2019, I looked at my calendar, and it is going to be here before we know it. But we still have time, and we're in pretty good shape. We have the mechanism in place. In looking at this, it's not the task it used to be. It really is an exercise in making sure that the museum has the things it needs, the procedures and systems to run properly as a museum. It really is important for us to do it. We'll be a better museum going through the reaccreditation process.

DR. GITELMAN:

Elizabeth, let's schedule a meeting this week.

MS. WAYLAND-Morgan:

Yes, certainly. Do you have one of these?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Back to the café, what happens next?

MR. REINHEIMER:

I asked David Swift to also submit plans to County approved contractors, and he's done that. We haven't heard from him. I think they were waiting for the final plan to be stamped.

The next step is to get an estimate from general contractors, electricians, and for plumbing and start the process.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Okay. Thank you.

MR. BEATTIE:

Very good. Thanks, Lance. One comment about the café. If we're going to have a lot more German visitors, we're going to have to start working on that David Hasselhoff exhibit.

{LAUGHTER}

The President's report, I'm going to bring this up now, I was hoping to get home and get my notes together, but I did not on the way here, so I typed them into my phone.

First of all, Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Day, we had on Monday. It was the best attended that we have ever had. We had over 60 people. Was that our final count, Lance?

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, I didn't count.

MR. BEATTIE:

I still smell of burgers and hot dogs. It was a lot of fun. I think our staff appreciated it. Obviously, we appreciate them or we wouldn't do it. We had a lot of fun for the Trustees, as well.

We asked for a \$20 donation for that. If you can give that to Betsy if you haven't yet, I would appreciate it because most of that went on my credit card for Costco.

The Under the Stars Café was covered by Lance.

Let's talk about one of the most important things. We skipped Neighbors Report because I know you haven't been able to be that involved, Mike, so I'm going to kind of jump on that. We had a couple of meetings, and some of the neighbors' concerns are that – all of the neighbors' concerns are valid to the extent – and I've said this numerous times before – to the extent that we have very good neighbors.

We want to be equally good to our neighbors. We have had some significant issues lately. The noise problem is a concern. It continues to be a concern. There are some other things that happen, and I won't go into detail about that, that affect our neighbors, and we're going to make sure that we correct those as well.

The most important thing is that in consultation with Legislator Spencer, we held a few sound tests with some of the neighbors. The most important thing is that we're engaging on the issues.

I think what needs to be considered by the Board, especially in consultation with Legislator Spencer, is that we not do the three music festivals anymore. Aren't there three of them?

Well, we don't do music festivals anymore.

MR. REINHEIMER:

I just want to clarify for the record, that we talked to the neighbors about the Woodstock Revival, which is in June, and the Grateful Day. We didn't talk about Alex Torres, which is not really a music festival. It's held Friday night, the first Friday of August each year. We have been doing that for ten years. We have somewhere between 350 and 425 people come.

Barbara Oster has done a wonderful job with that. It's become a tradition here. She found Alex Torres. She brought him here, and it's been part of the museum's summer program. I think we were just talking about the music festivals at this point.

MR. BEATTIE:

We used to have more than two, other than Alex Torres.

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct. We had five one year. We cut that down to the two core ones. So we did have five about three or four years ago.

MR. BEATTIE:

There were some behavior issues with some of our attendees at one of the events that is totally out of character to what we want to have here. If that's what's been happening, it's my suggestion to this Board that we – I don't know that we need to vote on it, but that we not have music festivals anymore. I don't know that we need to take a vote on that unless anyone wants to have a discussion about it.

MR. KELLY:

How much money did they bring in?

MR. REINHEIMER:

They brought in a significant amount. It's grown. It grossed \$64,000 last year, and it was within a couple hundred dollars of \$64,000 this year. We increased the price of the tickets to control the size of the crowd. It did work

for both festivals. Both festivals had approximately 200 fewer people than 2015. The revenue was pretty much the same.

It's contingent on weather. We've been very lucky. We have had good weather for these two festivals. So the weather hasn't played into it. We have a producer Rich Rivkin who puts on these shows, pays the band, pays for the stage and everything, and does all the promotion. It's split 50/50. We gross \$64,000, so the museum nets revenue of \$32,000 for those two days.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

Would the neighbors consider ear muffs for the evening?

{LAUGHTER}

MS. CAMBRIA:

That's a lot of money.

MR. REINHEIMER:

We have had, in the past, concerns about traffic. We've had concerns about parking. This year that was mitigated. We had fewer people, even though when you looked at the property, it didn't look like there were fewer people, but when we added up the paid tickets, there were fewer people.

Traffic was not a problem this year. Parking was not a problem this year. I wasn't totally happy about the parking because some people did park on Little Neck Road and ignored our "No Parking" signs. They should not have done that.

More people parked on Cobblestone than I would have liked, but as far as the neighbors and the impact, we parked people at the beach. We shuttled them back and forth. We rented an SUV to do the shuttling.

As far as the neighbors with traffic, I don't think that was a big problem this year. As a matter of fact, a neighbor commented that it was good. I was out there in the street. I was doing traffic for most of the day, and then I was also on the property.

I was here from the beginning to the end of the event. It is taxing to the property. There are a lot of people here. There is somewhere around 900 people for the Woodstock event in June, and there is about 1,200 for Grateful Dead. That's a lot of people. It's a lot of cars. We do pretty much fill the parking lot down at the beach.

We have an inter-municipal agreement and permit with the Town of Huntington, so that's all done with consent from Huntington.

MR. BEATTIE:

Kevin.

MR. PETERMAN:

It is my understanding that this is a recommendation that we should stop these two events. I just think as a Board we need an action on it. I think we should vote on it. I just think it gives it a little bit more weight.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay.

MR. MULE:

Before we do, on questions that I have, we talked about the net for the two music festivals. Do you have a net number for the weddings that occur?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Well, I have a gross number because we don't split that revenue. It's in the neighborhood of \$200,000 for site use. Weddings – we're booked for weddings. We're booked for 2017 already. We had a full complement of weddings this year. We have more weddings next year. I don't know the exact number, but we're booked.

MR. MULE:

The gross is \$200,000? Do you have an idea of what the net is from that?

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

\$175,000?

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, it's –

MS. GEGWICH:

And how many weddings is that?

MR. REINHEIMER:

This year I think we had about thirteen. I'm trying to recall the numbers. It's somewhere around \$75,000. That's a fuzzy number. What comes out of there are all the salaries. We have a full time site use person. That includes her salary and benefits. That also includes the part time people that are assigned to assist her on a per diem basis. There might be some other expenses in there.

I just went through some numbers with the auditor on this. It's somewhere in the neighborhood of – it's fuzzy, \$75,000 is significant, \$200,000 is significant.

That also includes the cost of maintaining and the tent and having the tent stored, put up and taken down is about \$30,000 for the tent. That number is also in there.

MR. MULE:

So really between the weddings and the two events, I know it's an estimate, but it's over \$100,000 or \$107,000 by those numbers.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, I would say so. Ron and I and a couple of the Board Members have discussed this, that's \$30,000 to the museum but I'm optimistic about its future. We had – and I don't want to reveal the revenue on the record because it's for the TV shoot. I don't think that's something that should be out there. But if we get a couple of TV shoot, we get revenue from other areas, I think we can make that up.

Every year for things to get better here, in terms of goodwill, we just need to get the word out there in the community. People come here and see the grounds now. You can physically see the change in this museum. That's all positive.

I think it's important for the Board to do the best they can to accommodate our neighbors and to be a good neighbor.

The music festivals, it's culture. It's entertainment. As Ron said, we had some – when you get 1,200 people and you get literally a handful of people that are not behaving properly, it's a shame, but it's not something we condone. It's not consistent with our mission as a museum and a park.

MR. MULE:

One other question that I have is just defining the issues a little bit for the neighbors. I understand that that issue is really a behavioral issue. But there is also the issue with respect to sound.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Absolutely.

MR. MULE:

So I guess we have to deal with both issues.

MR. BEATTIE:

And we are. I'm glad you brought up the weddings because losing that revenue on top will just be killer for us.

Some of the things -- we are looking at some things to mitigate the sound issue. At some meetings we have discussed with the neighbors, and we're going to continue to pursue, is a potential for putting up a sound wall. We have already started -- I believe today Lance spoke with DPW earlier --

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, I left a message with DPW Highways, the engineer there. I called him this morning. He was in a meeting with the Commissioner and wasn't able to speak to me, but I want to get an estimate of what it would cost to do a sound wall approximately 250 feet long, 20 or 25 feet high.

My vision, and I'm not an engineer or a sound expert, but I think wood would be something that's attractive. It wouldn't alter the landscape. It wouldn't alter the property. A sound wall can be put up and it can be taken down in the future so it doesn't have a permanent lasting change to this historical landscaping.

It would be put in a place along the edge or the tree line behind the tent. Right now that's woods. It would be put between the tent and the existing woods. The woods help provide a barrier in the summer with the foliage so that helps to mitigate some of the sound.

We have to look into whether this will have a positive result. We have to bring somebody in and kind of test that option.

MR. BEATTIE:

And one of the other things we are looking into in conjunction with it -- because there is not going to be one magic bullet that fixes the noise issue-- is that it really depends on what deejay they have there.

We're considering having a controlled list of deejays that have cooperated. We've had Carol tell us a couple of stories about how she has asked them to turn it down and they keep on cranking it up. She will ask them again to turn it down and one guy at the very end just cranked it up. She said, "You will never work here again."

We are looking at the possibility that we can write into our contract about the noise levels that are acceptable, including base levels because it's not only just the decibels, but it's the base that shakes the foundation. Jim?

MR. KELLY:

I'm the President of my co-op board out in Montauk. We have a commercial tenant on our property. Noise is a problem. What the police have done is they have these hand-held meters with the decibel meters. If they exceed the decibel meter level, they can be fined. We're not going to do that here, but if we had such a meter, and it's a hand-held device so I can't imagine it's that expensive, we could just write the decibel level into the contract.

MR. BEATTIE:

Right, and we actually have already started that. Fortunately, Doc Spencer is an ears, nose and throat doctor, and he knows a lot about this. He has been very helpful about sitting down and talking about what comparisons at certain levels you could make to a jet engine, etc.

I don't understand the whole concept that louder is better amongst the deejay world. In my personal opinion, maybe just because I'm old, I just don't see the value in it.

One other point, though, in terms of other events that we could backfill from our music events that we used to do, we might be able to get a jazz festival here that is less –

MR. KELLY:

Amplifier free.

MR. BEATTIE:

Or an acoustic festival that people would, I think, really come and enjoy and certainly not bring the behavioral element that comes with that as well.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

What I have done on a couple of occasions if you get a nasty deejay and the speaker is blasting, you just reach in your pocket and you mosey over with a pair of cutting pliers and you just go snip. You go back to your seat, sit down and enjoy the rest of your evening. I've done that three times. It works terrific. It does.

{LAUGHTER}

MR. PETERMAN:

How about just pulling the plug?

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

But then he can plug it in again.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Needless to say, I am concerned about a sound wall. I'm sure I'm not alone that a sound wall 250 feet long, 25 feet high might look like other sound walls that we see on the expressway and on Route 347. I consider them to be a horror. I'm sure Willie K. wasn't planning a sound wall when he built this. He didn't have any neighbors back then.

The second thing is that you could change the character of these events by, shall we say, increasing the per capita cost. Maybe we could reduce the number of people again. Maybe we could bring it more under control by having a smaller crowd.

You might also write into the contracts with your artists that if they exceed decibel levels, there is a financial penalty.

Those are just a few options to consider before we kill more events that seem to be growing and seem to be adding to the fabric of this wonderful institution.

I'm not saying, no, I'm just saying let's just think of a few things before we do it.

MR. BEATTIE:

I like that. Go ahead, Mike.

MR. MULE:

I just have a few additional points. One is this thing that we always come back to, and it's getting a permanent solution. Not to take it lightly, but it is something that we have talked about for a long time. It's really an Achilles heel of this institution that it is a great institution and it has great facilities to some extent.

What it is missing is that permanent facility that there could be a public use and entertainment, things that are indoors where there are sound barriers, so that this isn't an issue anymore.

I also think we could -- besides having a price point that reduces the quantity of people but perhaps you could maintain revenue that will reduce the sound and incidences of behavior.

You could also have heightened security for events. I do echo concerns about having a sound wall or something that takes away from the museum and the park-like atmosphere that it should have.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Sometimes it's good to have something that is not exactly perceived all that well because it becomes a trade-off in the future. We have the waterfront that is substantially decayed.

There were certainly many proposals on the table, and I, for one, have a lot of knowledge about how difficult it would be to save that waterfront. But, gee, if you cancel the events that people want to see and you have a potential solution on the waterfront, why not raise the issue of the waterfront one more time. Just say to them, "Look these problems would go away if we were using the seaplane hangar."

MR. BEATTIE:

Very good point.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I know the logistics. I'm just saying it would be worth reminding them.

MR. BEATTIE:

And I remind everybody here that this Board unanimously approved the economic sustainability plan that called for that. It's a matter of how we can make that happen.

I think some of the new members of the Board are going to be very helpful in making that happen. I already started those discussions.

The long-term solution certainly is still that.

Let me make a suggestion here. I don't want to see a sound wall here. Everything that we did when we envisioned the economic sustainability plan was to build anything that was here into the historic nature of the property, that it wouldn't be invasive. Certainly a sound wall would be invasive.

One of the things that I think on a temporary basis – and we're only talking a temporary basis -- Here is my suggestion then. Would the Neighbors Committee evaluate these potential solutions, and then come back at the next meeting and we can discuss it further? We don't have to vote to not do the events anymore.

We have a lot of options now that are on the table from this discussion, including having other events that are less invasive and less noisy and having more enforcement at the current events, etc.

MS. GEGWICH:

Can I ask a question?

MR. BEATTIE:

Sure.

MS. GEGWICH:

When people come to in, do they bring coolers? Are they just allowed to bring anything in that they want unto the grounds?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Well, they are bringing coolers in, yes.

MS. GEGWICH:

So there is definitely some area there where if the behavior has been people under the influence and that's something we can address -- and I think you have done a phenomenal job with the parking, with the shuttling from the beach and with the garbage. It's amazing.

I think absolutely raising the ticket price and reducing the number of people that way has helped.

I'm very opposed to a sound wall. I guess we would have to know more about it, but I would never want to see that.

Security and monitoring what people bring in – if we don't want them to be drinking a lot, then limit that. Or open it up to food and drinks then and control it that way.

If we're talking about two days and adding \$3,200 versus netting \$75,000, that doesn't seem –

MR. REINHEIMER:

That was \$32,000.

MS. GEGWICH:

So in two days to net \$32,000 and 13 weddings net \$75,000, there is something amiss to me.

DR. GITTELMAN:

May I remind you that our attempts at temporary solutions – I want to just remind you of the two that occurred when I was President, one was the dinosaur exhibit. May it rest in peace.

The second is the tent. The tent was a temporary solution until we got the seaplane hangar.

MR. BEATTIE:

Right.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If we keep offering temporary solutions, we may be here with a lot of temporary solutions for a very long time. Sometimes it's better to ask for a permanent solution and push for it. I'm not saying we're going to get it, but maybe that should be thematically something that we, as a group, agree to pursue, even if we fail.

MR. MULE:

I would second that notion. It seems like it's a constant band-aid effect. It's not working. At a certain point, we have to decide where we're going as an institution and we either have to try and perhaps fail on it but I think it makes sense to really pursue a solution that effectuates something for the museum that's good, something for Suffolk County, and also would accommodate the neighbors.

MR. BEATTIE:

I agree, but in the very short term -- and I'm not talking temporary solutions -- you do chair the Neighbors Committee, would you consider some of these short-term solutions towards the deejays, etc?

MR. MULE:

We could discuss in committee certain proposals. I can't say that our competence as a committee is going to be any greater than the competence of the Board in general because we're raising the issues now. Without further expertise on these types of things, which I certainly don't have, I don't know what type of recommendations I could make or the committee could make that's going to be really any greater than us talking on the record here as a Board.

MR. BEATTIE:

Yes, Betsy.

MS. CAMBRIA:

A couple of things. First of all, the tent isn't used only for weddings. It also is used amicably for our Clam Bake. I know I went to a memorial service there last spring that was amazing. I don't think the grounds suffered in any way.

The Thursday night dances are a great way of generating goodwill. There are so many other things that go on under the tent that I think we might be missing that. It isn't just weddings, and it isn't just Grateful Dead festivals. It sounds to me as if the Grateful Dead festival is dead in the water.

DR. GITTELMAN:

There is a permanent solution, vis-à-vis, the seaplane hangar. We could do it in October, November, December, January, February and March, and we would be far more financially independent.

MS. CAMBRIA:

I totally agree, except I can only – this is the solution, but I can't imagine how long that's going to take when we have been for three years trying to put a café in. Can you imagine, Steve?

MR. KELLY:

I think it might be cheaper just to send the neighbors who are not happy out for dinner and a show.

{LAUGHTER}

MS. CAMBRIA:

I think that is the solution; it's gorgeous waterfront property. I mean, it's perfect.

MR. BEATTIE:

Kevin.

MR. PETERMAN:

Being on the Buildings and Grounds Committee, I believe we had Public Works in here years ago inspecting the seaplane hangar. I don't know if they had an official report, but I could certainly try to find out if they did.

It was my understanding that it was quite an expensive project to make that happen.

MR BEATTIE:

Let's not forget about the economic sustainably plan as a public/private partnership that would not require County funds. It's a matter of someone who can push that through because I don't have the time to do that.

I think with some of the conversations that I've had in the last week, that some of our new members are willing to go in and push for that.

MR. PETERMAN:

I'd like to maybe contact Public Works and see if I can get some ballpark number.

MR. BEATTIE:

Absolutely.

MR. KELLY:

The other issue you have when you deal with the waterfront is EPA permits, Army Corp of Engineers, etc.

MR. BEATTIE:

Yes, we're aware of that, and then there's the whole infrastructure thing to put that kind of thing in here, there has to be sewage treatment issues, etc. There is a lot to it.

MS. GEGWICH:

But if we're against it, we can't expect the County to support it. So it's our job to be supportive of whatever it takes to make that happen. We can't say that we want this money but we don't really think it's going to work because of all these obstacles.

MR. BEATTIE:

We're not saying we're against it. We're just –

MS. GEGWICH:

Yes, but we're coming up with our own talking points about why it's going to be difficult and going to be a challenge –

MR. BEATTIE:

Nobody said it's going to be easy.

MS. CAMBRIA:

I did, and I regret it. That isn't really what I meant. I just meant we have to have our eyes open about this.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It is not going to be easy. It might be worth it if we ever completed it. It will not be short-term. It will take blood, sweat and tears, a lot of crying, yelling and jumping up and down. I know. I've been there. I've tried it.

MR. BEATTIE:

How many cell phones can you afford?

{LAUGHTER}

DR. GITTELMAN:

What it comes down to, though, is that one of the greatest collections we have is the structures on this property. We are the custodians of the buildings and the grounds. This and Normandy Manor are part of that collection.

They may be sore spots. It has always been my personal view that we, as Trustees, have to believe that we must save these structures because once they are gone, they are gone, and we can't get them back. If you turn your head on the waterfront, which is perhaps one of the greatest assets we have, we are, shall I say, remiss.

MR. BEATTIE:

You are absolutely right. I have been on record with this Board for two buildings of significance on this property, the boathouse and the seaplane hangar, that if we continue this, this is demolition through neglect. We don't want to get to that point.

DR. GITTELMAN:

May I make another suggestion? There are new Trustees. Why don't we all go down for a hike? Not tonight, but on a nice sunny day, I think we should go down there. I would love to show you what we have and what we have that is both a danger to the public and a potential asset to the public. You can actually see that we were making progress and then something stopped. I want you to see it so that you can say that you reject it, you accept it or you're neutral. But I do think that you have to see it.

MR. BEATTIE:

Right, that's a great idea. We'll schedule that.

MR. MULE:

If I could just sort of sum up and get back, obviously, to these connected issues, a permanent solution – the seaplane hangar, which I understand is like one of only a couple in the country. These are obviously connected issues.

Circling back, I guess, to the issues we started with, which are sound and behavioral issues, and dealing with music festivals and also weddings connecting to that, the question as far as music festivals is, there are none that are scheduled this year anymore. We're done.

The question is next year, the suggestion was that we don't do it next year.

MR. BEATTIE:

Yes.

MR. PETERMAN:

Well, if I may, I think I said before that we should probably have a motion on that so we can make a decision and vote on it, so that it basically tells the neighbors that we're listening. But that's just my suggestion.

DR. GITTELMAN:

One more point of discussion. I want to make one thing clear. When I wrote the book on Willie, I did not include big parties at this estate because there is no place to have big parties. There is no big party room.

When I was down at his Florida estate, I went into a room that was clearly designed to handle 200 to 250 people for big parties. I'm telling you, Willie was a party animal.

I'm not saying that we have to do whatever Willie did, but I am saying that you have a very good historic argument preserving what we have here because he lived in both houses. His completed life, if you will, included partying down there and summering up here.

You really want to understand that the waterfront here was as important as the waterfront there. We're really not unique or alone in this case. We must save the whole institution not just the easy pieces.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

Can I say something about the Gardiner Foundation?

MR. BEATTIE:

Yes, Tony.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

All the people who are looking to get their hands on some of that money, not everybody is, but Herbert Gardiner lived in Greenlawn on Park Avenue for just over 100 years. I was at his home one day and the phone rings, and he said, "Get the phone for me." I got the phone and was talking to one of the people from the Foundation. They were looking for a Gardiner heir. I explained to him – he said to me, "Hang up. Tell those people I have my own money. What do I want that guy's for?" True story.

{LAUGHTER}

MS. CAMBRIA:

So where is his money?

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

He had plenty.

MR. MULE:

Can I propose a motion that we have a moratorium on these festivals next year?

MR. PETERMAN:

To my understanding it was two, right?

MR. MULE:

Yes, two festivals -- a moratorium on the two festivals for next year.

MR. PETERMAN:

I'll second that.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay, without objection, all in favor of a two-year moratorium? Okay, the vote is 6/3. **(Amended Vote: 7/3/0/5 Opposed: Dr. Gittelman, Mr. Beattie & Mr. Guarnischelli. Absent: Mr. Glascock, Mr. Melore, Mr. Pearsall & Ms. Giamo. One vacancy.)**

MR. KELLY:

I have a question.

MR. PETERMAN:

Hold on, as Secretary, it's my understanding that we would need eight positive votes for an action.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

Steve, whenever you want to go down to the boathouse, I'd like to go with you.

MR. KELLY:

Ditto.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I would also add to this, I could raise money for the boathouse very quickly.

MS. CAMBRIA:

Good.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I've done it before.

MR. PETERMAN:
Just so we have an understanding, that motion failed.

MR. BEATTIE:
It failed, yes.

MS. CAMBRIA:
So what do we do now?

MR. MULE:
Point of procedure, I don't know if we're going to do this or if it's something for executive session, but it's a question on Roberts Rules.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Robert's Rules has to be discussed in public.

MR. MULE:
Okay, we had the requisite number of people voting. I don't understand what the –

MR. PETERMAN:
If I may, when I became Secretary of the Board, I did have a meeting with George Nolan, Counsel for the Legislature. I said we have 15 Board seats and some are vacant. Do we need a majority of the seats that are filled to have a quorum and to have an action? He said, "No, if you have 15 seats, you need 8 to have an action."

MR. MULE:
Eight, okay, I understand.

MR. PETERMAN:
The same thing happens at the College Board of Trustees. If they don't have six positive votes, it doesn't happen.

MR. MULE:
It's based on the fact that we have new members, we have a larger Board than we used to have?

MR. PETERMAN:

No, it's based on the fact that we have 15 members. It's always going to be eight no matter how many empty seats we have, we need eight votes for an action.

MR. KELLY:

Is there a possibility of relocating these events to another local site?

MR. PETERMAN:

Then we won't get the money.

MR. BEATTIE:

Another place on site here?

MR. KELLY:

No, I mean a park somewhere.

MR. BEATTIE:

No, again, we wouldn't get the revenue for it. And they might just do that, if we tell them we're not going to have it here. They may go to another place.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

They could go to Oheka but they might get shot.

MR. BEATTIE:

We can certainly consider this at another time, but that motion fails. Thanks for pointing that out. I completely lost that.

Does anybody have any old items that they would like to discuss?

MS. GEGWICH:

I do. I don't know if you would consider it old or new, but I want to mention something regarding the Clam Bake. First off, I'm happy to see that we raised the price for the Christmas Dinner. I feel that that's an important way for us to make up for if we do lose part of this music festival money.

I'd like to also say that I think our Clam Bake could have a higher price point and not give a discount for – well, we could figure out the details another time.

What I would like to see is some sort of committee of people who want to be involved. I feel like the baskets were a good start this year, and I appreciate that everyone participated.

I'd like to see our raffle ticket price go up considerably. I think that revenue could have been significantly more than what it was.

I would personally like to see if we could entertain other caterers. I'd like to see if we could entertain other ways for how food and drinks are served. I feel like if we're raising the price for that, I'm very supportive of being completely involved and getting it to a point where people are paying more and feel good about paying more, because what they got was tremendous.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

The only thing I would like to say is we raised it \$100 a table and then we went down to a half of lobster. If we raise the price again, are you going to give a quarter of a lobster? That's a sore point for many years.

{LAUGHTER}

MS. GEGWICH:

I agree with you.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

I brought 10 people and two friends that I reimbursed, so that's 12 people I bought, plus raffles, plus the gift. I bring almost the same people every year. They couldn't believe it.

I know you can go back up and get another one but not to stand on that line again. For \$1,300 I look at it as a donation that I spent, but I got a half of lobster. I didn't come for a hot dog or hamburger. I came for a clam bake. I have offered to help, and no one has ever asked me to help.

The clams, I got five shells and two clams because they were at the bottom of the pot. You have to put the clams in a little bag, which I offered to do. I offered to buy the clams. You get a half of ear of soggy corn. I offered to donate all the corn.

DR. GITTELMAN:

This will not be on the website as a promo for the Clam Bake.

{LAUGHTER}

MS. GEGWICH:

But this speaks volumes. I bought my table so my guests weren't complaining because they didn't pay anything. But to know what I paid to

bring my guests with me, and then to see that people were waiting an exorbitant amount of time, that's not –

I feel that if this is going to be our fundraiser, and it is right now, that if this is going to be how we're putting it out there as a Board, then we need to absolutely overhaul it.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

You were lucky. Your guests didn't pay and didn't complain. Mine didn't pay and complained.

{LAUGHTER}

DR. GITTELMAN:

You need new guests.

{LAUGHTER}

MS. GEGWICH:

I did speak with another caterer right after the event because I wanted to get an idea how she would have run it and it was completely different. I didn't even say how it was run. I asked her how she would feed this many people in this amount of time. She had a completely different layout of the food line. She had hors d'oeuvres passed around. It was a completely different set up and the cost to us would have been less. We would have had the opportunity to increase our revenue in addition to charging more. I am 100 percent on board for chairing that committee or for doing whatever needs to be done. But to be involved in this event, I personally want it to be more than it is.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

I would be glad to help you.

MR. GEGWICH:

Okay.

MR. BEATTIE:

All right. We have a committee.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

I spent most of my life in the seafood business.

MS. GEGWICH:

Okay, great.

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's great.

MS. GEGWICH:

And I want Elizabeth, too.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Part of the challenge is we had no committee to work with. We also have some people here, like Elizabeth, where they are already talking about the Clam Bake for next year.

I did speak to Tony the other day.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

I have a whole trailer that's a corn roaster. I would be happy to bring it down here and roast the corn.

MR. REINHEIMER:

This is great. It really is.

MR. BEATTIE:

Our staff could really use the help. It's really just been on all of them. If we have a committee –

MS. GEGWICH:

Then what I would like to say on this also is that we are all willing to help. Maybe as the staff starts to feel overwhelmed with things, reach out to us because I am willing to help. I just don't always know how to help. But when I offer it may sound like an empty offer, but I have to know what you need help with.

MS. CAMBRIA:

I'd like to also point something out. We're all agitated and have a lot of ideas about a Clam Bake that requires a tent or something else.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Or a seaplane hangar.

MR. GUARNISCHELLI:

As long as it doesn't rain.

MR. BEATTIE:

Does anybody have any new business to discuss? Jim?

MR. KELLY:

Lance and I had discussed this in the past, not sure if there had been some discussion at the meetings, and I don't know if it took place, about the possibility of doing some sort of golf tournament.

MR. BEATTIE:

That has been discussed in the past. If you would like to head that up.

MR. PETERMAN:

Don't you have one at that the Clam Bake?

MR. BEATTIE:

We do.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Closest to the pin.

MR. KELLY:

I thought we could do it in the seaplane hangar.

{LAUGHTER}

MR. BEATTIE:

If you would like to head something like that up, I think it's something that – I know neighbors have brought it up a couple of times to do for us and nothing has ever materialized. I know there is a lot of work that goes into a golf outing. I would help you on that committee, but if you would like to head that up, that would be great.

MR. KELLY:

I'll look into it to see what we can come up with.

MR. BEATTIE:

Okay.

Gretchen brought up a good point because we've been questioning how often we have our meetings. I think it's important that we have the November meeting. We have to form the Nomination Committee. That would be November 16. Is everybody on board with that?

With that, I'll ask for a motion to adjourn.

MR. PETERMAN:

Motion.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Second.

MR. BEATTIE:

Without objection, thanks for coming, everyone. **(Vote 10/0/0/5
Absent: Mr. Glascock, Mr. Melore, Mr. Pearsall & Ms. Giamo. One
vacancy.)**

(Mr. Ron Beattie adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.)

RB:ap

Attachments

Summary of Required Core Attachments

1. Institutional Code of Ethics — **Completed**
2. Current fiscal year's budget — **Completed**
3. Audit, including management letters, for the last two fiscal years — **Completed**
4. Most recent IRS Form 990 (required if a museum is subject to 990 filing requirements) — **Completed**
5. Delegation of Authority to Director — **Pending review**
6. Organizational chart — **In review**
7. Collections Management Policy — **In review**
8. Emergency Response & Disaster Preparedness Plan — **Pending review**
9. Institutional Plan(s) — **Required update**

Other documents

10. Collections Plan — **Pending review**
11. Conservation Plan — **Pending review**
12. Interpretive Plan or educational master plan — **Optional**

Reaccreditation Self-Study

13. Review previous Self-Study
14. Review previous Visiting Committee report
15. Review previous Accreditation Commission decision letter
16. Prepare new Self-Study

Final Reporting

17. AAM Accreditation Visiting Committee Report — **2020**
18. AAM Accreditation Decision Letter — **2020**



Accreditation Process and Timeline

For more detail, see:

- Guide to the New Reaccreditation Process (PDF)
- Guide to the First-Time Accreditation Process (PDF)

Preparation/Application (First-Time Applicants)

- Complete Core Documents Verification (a prerequisite to applying for accreditation)
- Submit a formal application

Self-Study

- Museum completes the Self-Study online (questionnaire and attachments.) Download a preview copy of the 1st time Self-Study and the reaccreditation Self-Study
- Museum receives feedback from Alliance staff and responds to requests for missing/additional information
- Alliance Staff/Commission determine if the museum is ready for a site visit

Site Visit

- Museum reviews names of potential peer reviewers to serve as the Visiting Committee
- Alliance selects the two person team
- The Visiting Committee works with the museum to schedule a visit
- The visit is 1.5 - 3 days
- The Visiting Committee writes a report for the Accreditation Commission

Accreditation Decision

The Accreditation Commission reviews the museum's Self-Study and site visit report and makes one of the following decisions:

List of Accredited Museums

Eligibility

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Accreditation Staff

- **Grants accreditation** (usually for 10 years)
- **Tables its decision** for 1 year so specific issues can be addressed
- **Denies accreditation** due to failure to meet multiple Characteristics of Excellence and/or for major systemic problems
- **Defers a decision** to gather additional information

Learn more about Accreditation Commission decisions.

Within one month of the meeting, the museum receives a letter from the Chair of the Accreditation Commission with its decision. The museum also receives the Visiting Committee's report, an official certificate and materials to help publicize the award.

Total time from application to decision: Approximately 8 -16 months (unless tabled.)

Museums undergo reaccreditation every ten years.

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Accreditation Costs

Accreditation fees cover about 50 percent of the annual costs of operating the Accreditation Program each year. The other half is subsidized by general operating funds generated from member dues and revenue from other Alliance products and services. Nonpayment of fees may jeopardize the museum's accredited status.

Alliance membership is not required for accreditation but certain levels of membership offer substantial savings on accreditation fees. Membership dues are billed separately from Accreditation fees.

Alliance Membership Status (museum)	Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 1	Non-member
Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no fee to apply. 	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Self-Study: Review Fee* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers costs associated with the administration of a museum's re/accreditation review from application, through Self-Study, site visit, and Accreditation Commission decision Triggered when the Self-Study is submitted, which is approximately every ten years, and based on the museum's Alliance membership status at that time No refunds or adjustments will be made once the Self-Study is submitted May be paid as a lump sum or in 3 or 5 annual installments (10% surcharge applies and is collected in full with 1st payment) 	\$2500	\$3000	\$4500	\$6000
Site Visit: Peer Reviewer Expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The museum is responsible for expenses related to the site visit: travel, accommodation, meals, and related incidentals for two Peer Reviewers for a 1 1/2 - 3 day visit Very large museum systems may require 3 reviewers 				

Varies based on museum location, number of days, mode of travel, etc.

Suggest museums budget \$1,700-\$2,400

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit expenses are reimbursed to the peer reviewers by the Alliance and the Alliance invoices the museum a few weeks after the site visit 				
<p>Annual Participation Fee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid by all museums participating in the Accreditation Program each year except the year the Self-Study is due (pay the Review Fee instead) Applies to a calendar year Ranges are shown because the amount depends on a combination of your museum's next/last Self-Study due date and its AAM member level (see more details below) See more at https://aam-us.org/docs/default-source/accreditation/wyntka-annual-fee-2014.pdf?sfvrsn=2 	<p>\$0-\$250</p>	<p>\$125-\$250</p>	<p>\$250-\$575</p>	<p>\$250-\$575</p>

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Benefits of Accreditation

Museums benefit from both the status and the process of accreditation. Different benefits emerge from each step of the review cycle, and continue to unfold over the long-term. Each museum will experience or capitalize on a different mix of benefits based on its needs at any given time. Over the last 40 years, participants have consistently reported the following reasons as the most common and important:

Credibility and Accountability

- National recognition of your museum's commitment to excellence and the highest professional standards of museum operation and public service
- A positive public image and validation of your museum's work and accomplishments
- Increased credibility with funding agencies and donors
- Stakeholders see the museum's obligation to the public trust is fulfilled

Clearer Sense of Purpose

- A clearer sense of purpose and understanding of your museum's strengths, goals, priorities and mission
- An opportunity for staff and board to be thoughtful about their practice

Leverage and Support

- A valuable tool in lobbying local and state governments
- Improved relationships with other museums resulting in more loans and traveling exhibitions
- Maintenance of accreditation a leveraging tool to attract support for capital improvements

Sustainability and a Stronger Institution

- Fosters sustained organizational development and improvement
- A governing authority better educated about museum standards

List of Accredited Museums

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10/19/2016

Accreditation Benefits

- Increased level of professionalism
- Viewed as a better risk by the fine arts insurance industry

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SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

Treasurer Report

August 2016

	Actual August	Budget August	Variance
Revenue			
Admission	\$ 77,030	\$ 85,000	\$ (7,970)
Membership	\$ 9,102	\$ 5,833	\$ 3,269
Museum Store	\$ 9,807	\$ 10,500	\$ (693)
Special Events	\$ 20,251	\$ 22,500	\$ (2,249)
Suffolk County Funds	\$ 121,383	\$ 72,830	\$ 48,553
Endowment	0	0	\$ -
Site Use	\$ 31,775	\$ 25,000	\$ 6,775
Donations & Gifts	\$ 224	\$ 9,167	\$ (8,943)
Real Estate Rental	\$ -	6,000	\$ (6,000)
Other General	\$ 237	\$ 67	\$ 170
Total Revenue	\$ 269,809	\$ 236,897	\$ 32,912
Expenses			
Salaries & Wages	\$ 118,993	\$ 112,000	\$ 6,993
Benefits	\$ 24,227	\$ 29,000	\$ (4,773)
Maintenance & Equipment	\$ 1,988	\$ 5,933	\$ (3,945)
Insurance	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,083	\$ 17
Professional	\$ 12,941	\$ 11,667	\$ 1,274
Museum Store	\$ 4,488	\$ 3,333	\$ 1,155
Telephone	\$ 2,275	\$ 1,667	\$ 608
Utilities	\$ 12,722	\$ 19,000	\$ (6,278)
Supplies, Programs, Gala	\$ 5,598	\$ 10,708	\$ (5,110)
General Expenses	\$ 3,255	\$ 2,833	\$ 422
Total Expenses	\$ 193,587	\$ 203,224	\$ (9,637)
Excess / Deficiency	\$ 76,222	\$ 33,673	\$ 42,549

**SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM
TREASURER REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2016**

	Actual January	Actual February	Actual March	Actual April	Actual May	Actual June	Actual July	Actual August	Budget September	Budget October	Budget November	Budget December	Project Year End	Business Plan	Dollar Variance
REVENUE															
EARNED INCOME															
Admissions	37,037	58,949	49,427	75,801	62,705	52,890	77,850	77,030	48,000	38,000	51,000	53,000	681,589	700,000	(18,411)
Membership	9,726	11,714	14,510	10,063	8,311	5,436	6,760	9,102	5,834	5,834	5,834	5,834	98,958	70,000	28,958
Museum Store	6,427	7,467	6,822	9,603	3,692	6,339	12,314	9,807	3,500	4,000	5,000	5,000	79,971	70,000	9,971
Special Events	9,356	1,581	5,271	5,250	8,280	32,650	39,982	20,251	22,500	5,000	10,000	5,000	165,121	135,000	30,121
Suffolk County Funds	0	0	0	145,659	0	242,768	61,127	121,383	72,830	72,830	72,830	72,830	862,257	873,954	(11,697)
Endowment	0	0	37,000	37,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74,000	0	74,000
Site Use	12,437	7,365	8,050	11,244	35,243	25,725	23,853	31,775	20,000	10,000	6,000	5,000	196,692	170,000	26,692
Donations & Gifts	564	2,839	32	215	486	632	1,860	224	9,167	9,167	9,167	9,167	43,520	110,000	(66,480)
Real Estate Rental	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	24,000	72,000	(48,000)
Other General	34	155	950	323	124	444	276	237	67	67	67	67	2,811	800	2,011
Total Earned Income	75,581	89,970	122,062	295,158	118,841	366,884	224,022	269,809	187,898	150,898	165,898	161,898	2,228,919	2,201,754	27,165
EXPENSES															
Salaries & Wages	98,070	98,177	102,863	101,275	108,383	116,471	120,841	118,993	106,000	108,000	103,000	107,179	1,289,252	1,276,179	13,073
Benefits	23,692	21,284	32,258	23,645	26,071	26,312	26,050	24,227	24,000	25,000	23,000	25,183	300,722	297,183	3,539
Maintenance & Equip.	5,472	4,055	14,209	8,676	5,630	5,836	6,565	1,988	5,934	5,934	5,934	5,934	76,167	71,200	4,967
Insurance	7,100	7,200	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,083	7,083	7,083	7,087	85,236	85,000	236
Professional	7,101	29,354	15,114	17,574	11,938	36,251	16,159	12,941	11,667	11,667	11,667	11,667	193,100	140,000	53,100
Museum Store	5,269	4,711	1,241	3,717	2,336	3,962	3,543	4,488	3,334	3,334	3,334	3,334	42,603	40,000	2,603
Telephone Communic.	2,220	2,268	2,174	2,332	2,253	2,257	2,259	2,275	1,667	1,667	1,667	1,667	24,706	20,000	4,706
Utilities	10,042	13,089	12,209	9,588	10,311	9,184	12,081	12,722	19,000	12,000	12,000	12,854	145,080	201,854	(56,774)
Supplies, Pgrm., Ball	7,659	12,170	59,725	9,172	44,305	22,255	20,142	5,658	10,709	10,709	10,709	10,709	223,862	128,500	95,362
General Expenses	2,134	4,855	3,285	13,334	5,118	4,036	4,592	3,255	2,834	2,834	2,834	2,834	51,946	34,000	17,946
Total Expenses	168,759	197,163	250,179	196,413	223,445	233,664	219,332	193,587	192,228	188,228	181,228	188,448	2,432,674	2,293,916	138,758
Excess / Deficiency of Revenue	(93,178)	(107,193)	(128,117)	98,745	(104,604)	133,220	4,690	76,222	(4,330)	(37,330)	(15,330)	(26,550)	(203,755)	(92,162)	(111,593)