

Culture & Heritage
Board of Commissioners Meeting
September 23, 2013
6:00 pm
Museum of York County

Approved 10-28-13

Person Presiding: Chair, David Plexico
Members Present: David Duncan, Dennis Getter, Jonell Hagner
Members Calling In: Ragin Craig, Rick Lee
Members Absent: Carlos Bryson
Ex-Officio Present: Pat Veasey, Nancy Craig
Staff Present: Carey Tilley, Barbara Ardrey
Other: County Attorney Michael Kendree

The meeting was called to order by CHC Chair, David Plexico, at 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Hagner introduced Nancy Craig as the new ex officio member of the board and offered some background information. The board welcomed Mrs. Craig. Carlos Bryson, the new commissioner from District 4, was not in attendance due to a scheduling conflict.

Plexico made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2013 meeting as presented; Duncan seconded; during discussion Carey noted a typo regarding dates on the visitation chart in his 8/26/13 report, which report is included as an addendum to the minutes -- Kendree advised that the mistake should be acknowledged to the body and the correction made; a vote was taken on the motion; all voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports and Information

Report from Executive Director

- See full written report included as an Addendum to these Minutes.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee
 - Getter reported that there was no formal meeting but noted that there will be more final reports next month in conjunction with the county finishing up all of their work.
 - Getter reviewed for the Commission the Capital Projects Chart from Beth Latham and the need for the budget revision as relates to capital projects. He thereafter offered the following motion.

I move that we increase our budget for capital projects for this fiscal year that we are currently in by \$923,302.40; Duncan seconded; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Governance Committee
 - Hagner reported that there was no meeting but that vacant personnel positions would be discussed in Executive Session.

Lee interjected a concern regarding a typo he found in the August 26 Director's Report as relates to the overall visitation comparison from last July and this July. Percentage is shown as +30.26% and should be +20.26 %. Carey will review and correct.

- Collections Committee
 - Veasey directed the Commissioners to documents found in their packets, Recommendation for Deaccession and Recommendation for Accession.
 - She reported that Steve Fields put these items together because they involve the natural history collection, and further, that this information was distributed to the Collections Committee members for their input and all of the at-large members approved the recommendations.
 - Veasey noted that Fields' recommended the deaccession of certain items in our natural history collection that do not specifically relate to our mission on the Carolina Piedmont. In addition, Fields found that Clemson University is very interested in these pieces and has agreed to take them for their study. You will see that with the accessions, Clemson is sending our way some of their collections that fit into our Carolina Piedmont mission.
 - Veasey then stated that Nancy Sambets, through Steve's recommendation, would like to submit these to the Commission for approval.

Plexico asked for a motion; Duncan moved to approve; Getter seconded; no further discussion; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Veasey went on to present the Collections Committee Charter with the new language defining terms of members as approved at the last meeting. The additional wording reads as follows: At-large members shall serve a term of two years. At the end of the third consecutive term, at-large member must cycle off the Committee for at least a one year period before being eligible to serve again.

Old Business - None

New Business

- With respect to the realignment of certain positions, Tilley noted that there is some information regarding this matter that is sensitive because it reflects certain individual salaries and so, per Attorney Kendree, it should be covered in Executive Session.

Duncan moved to go into Executive Session; Getter seconded; no discussion; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Plexico noted that the reason for Executive Session was for receipt of legal advice and to discuss realignment of certain positions.

Executive Session

- Receipt of Legal Advice

Reconvened to Open Session

Plexico noted that the meeting was back in open session.

As a result of Executive Session, Commissioner Hagner offered the following motion:

We move as a Commission to make three different personnel changes, the first of which is to change the former position of full-time Facilities Manager to full-time Community Public Relations Coordinator that was an old grade of 12 to a current grade of 17.

Also to change the Visitor Services Coordinator old rate of 9 to Visitor Services Retail Assistant II which is a grade 4 and change the hours from 24 to 28 hours a week.

The third change, which has not gone through the management group that grades it, would be to change the Contributions Manager job which was a grade 15 at 24 hours a week to Development Administrative Assistant, not to exceed a grade 15, and that would be a 28 hour a week job.

Getter seconded; no discussion; a vote was taken and all in attendance voted in favor; the motion passed unanimously.

[Note: Rick Lee was off line and not in attendance at the time of the vote.]

Duncan moved to adjourn and Getter seconded.

The meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by: Barbara Ardrey

Submitted by: Dennis Getter, Secretary/Treasurer

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES OF CHC 9-23-13 MEETING
Culture and Heritage Museums
Director's Report
September 23, 2013

Mission: to communicate and preserve the natural and cultural histories of the Carolina Piedmont, inspiring a lifetime of learning.

CHC Commissioners,

I would like to thank you once again for your service and support. With the exception of losing valued employees to other opportunities, the past month has been a positive time for the museums. We are experiencing very strong growth in visitation and we are making solid progress on the McCelvey Annex while launching physical work on both the MYCO Roof and the Brick House Restoration. At the same time, Membership is growing and we have an exciting line-up of upcoming events.

Visitation Numbers

While it is still early, the positive onsite visitation totals continue to reflect a great start to FY 2013-2014. We were up by at least 23% at all four sites for the month of August.

August On-site Visitation Comparison

	Overall	MYCO	HB	MSCM	McCelvey
August 13/14	6,309	2,508	1,173	2,418	182
August 12/13	4,822	1,963	954	1,882	133
Change from Prev. Year	+1,487	+545	+219	+538	+49
% Change	+31%	+28%	+23%	+29%	+37%

Onsite YTD (July & August) Visitation Comparisons – Previous Year

	Overall	MYCO	HB	MSCM	McCelvey
YTD 2013-2014	14,987	5,905	3,935	4,712 ¹	407
YTD 2012-2013	12,080	4,573	2,851	3,965	686 ²
Change from Previous Year	+2,907	+1,332	+1084	+747	-279
% Change from Previous Year	+24%	+29%	+38%	+19%	-41%

Year-to-date onsite visitation totals increased significantly in all three major visitation categories: General Admission (up 16%); Special Events (up 114%³); and Groups (up 178%).

¹ Main Street Children's Museum YTD Totals for 2013-14 include Countdown to Kindergarten total (500). Countdown was a first-time program not held in previous years.

² McCelvey YTD Totals for 2012-13 include Southern Harmonies Concerts in July of 2012. These concerts were funded by a one-time grant. Daily Research Room numbers are up for the current year.

Membership

The total number of members also continued to climb in August rising from 1,159 in 2012 to 1,254 at the end of August this year. It is also 25 more members than we had at the end of July. This total remains our second highest membership total during the month of August in recent years. We are still assessing data prior to 2009 to include in next month's report.

By the Sweat of our Brows

On September 14th, we presented "By the Sweat of our Brows" which focused on The African American Experience at Historic Brattonville. In the 1840's the Bratton Plantation was home to 139 enslaved individuals. Although less prominent in contemporary documents, the African American population was no less important to the culture of the community than the Bratton's themselves. This program provided a glimpse into their lives as they moved from slavery to freedom. This year's program was the largest attendance since 2007 with 426 visitors. This total was up 53% from last year and continues the run of dramatic increases in HB events reported above.

Upcoming Events

We are moving into a busy fall. In addition to the field trip season, we have several programs and events on the near horizon. At Historic Brattonville we have the Piedmont Pottery Festival (September 28th), Spirits and Stories: Historic Brattonville by Twilight (October 19th), and our annual Civil War Reenactment (October 26th & 27th). At MYCO we have America Recycles Day on November 17th and we will continue our Carolina Stargazing program on the second Tuesday of each month. We have also begun offering Homeschoolers Wednesday on the third Wednesday of each month through May. On September 18th we were near the program's capacity at 42 at our first program. Wee Wednesday continues weekly at the Main Street Children's Museum. On Friday October 3rd, the McCelvey Center will serve as the kick-off venue for the York County Council for the Arts' 9th Annual Blues and Jazz Festival. The McCelvey event will feature Biscuit Miller and the Mix.

Southern Sound Series

We are finalizing details on the Southern Sound Series for 2013-14. This year's lineup includes three Grammy Winners in the genre's of Bluegrass, Americana, and Traditional Folk. The first event will be in January this year. A special event to announce this year's series will be held as soon as all of the acts are under contract.

McCelvey Annex

Progress continues on the McCelvey Annex. With the roof and windows near completion construction will soon turn towards the interior. This project was slowed by the continual rains this summer but most of the remaining work should proceed regardless of the weather. We had been hoping for a completion date of December; however, there is strong likelihood that this date will need to be revised because of the delays on the roof. A pre-bid meeting for the Compact Shelving to be installed is scheduled for later this week.

³ For comparison, the Independence Day event has been counted as a Special Event in both the current and previous year. In previous years it was counted in general admission totals. Other special events counted through August 2013 include Huck's Defeat at HB and Countdown to Kindergarten at the Children's Museum.

MYCO Roof

Interstate Roofing has begun work on the Museum of York County roof replacement. We have had to shut down sections of the museum temporarily during this process as the roofers move to areas that impact operation. While the work is an inconvenience, we look forward to having a more secure envelope. Currently the project is on schedule and we expect completion by late October.

HB Brick House

We met with Centennial Preservation at Historic Brattonsville this past Thursday for a pre-construction meeting. Details are set and we expect contractors on site later this week. Because of delays in starting the project, we now expect the project to go into December (rather than November). We will be working on a schedule and bid process for the first stage of the next phase (the Front Porch) of the Brick House Restoration in the coming weeks. The county has committed \$45,000 in H-Tax funds to cover the cost of this portion of the project. We also anticipate a formal letter concerning funding from the Robert Haywood Morrison Foundation in October.

HB Huck's Defeat Battlefield

Staff continues to meet to plan the Interpretation of the Huck's Defeat Battlefield. Pending formal approval of the budget amendment this evening, H-Tax funds totaling \$96,300 will be available to use towards the project. Ideally, the interpretive trail and signage would be ready to use by the Huck's Defeat reenactment in 2014. To meet this deadline, work on the original artwork for the signage will need to begin within the next few weeks.

Personnel News

HB Programs Manager, Jason Luker and Planetarium Manager, Jim Greenhouse have been offered positions with other organizations creating key staff vacancies. Both Luker and Greenhouse were tremendous assets to our staff during the short time that they were here. Their new positions represent positive career advancement for each of them and we wish them well in their new endeavors. Their respective positions at the Culture and Heritage Museums are currently advertised and we hope to find quality replacements as soon as possible. We also are looking to fill positions in Development, Marketing, and Visitor Services. Because we are altering the positions to better reflect organizational needs, each of those three position changes will require board action before they are advertised.

Conclusion

The museums governed by you as the Culture and Heritage Commission offer unique opportunities to the citizens of York County and the surrounding region. They add value to the quality of life in this area. To me, museums offer color and depth to education and preservation and I am proud to be a part of this organization. What we do matters.

Sincerely,

(submitted electronically)

Carey L. Tilley
Executive Director