

**Culture & Heritage
Board of Commissioners Meeting
January 28, 2013
6:00 PM
Museum of York County**

Approved: 02-25-13

Person Presiding: Chair, David Plexico
Members Present: Dennis Getter, Jonell Hagner, Ragin Craig
Members Called In: Hester Benitez, Rick Lee; David Duncan called in at start of Executive Session
Ex-Officio Present: Pat Veasey
Ex-Officio Absent: Bob McCann
Staff Present: Carey Tilley, Barbara Ardrey, Molly Brown
Other: Michael Kendree, County Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Vice-Chair, Jonell Hagner, in Chair's absence.

Hagner asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/26/12 and 11/28/12 meetings.

Rick Lee moved to approve the 11-26-12 minutes as presented and Ragin Craig seconded; no discussion; the motion passed unanimously.

Ragin Craig moved to approve 11-28-12 minutes as presented and Rick Lee seconded; no discussion; the motion passed with Getter, Hagner, Craig and Lee voting yes and Benitez abstaining because she was not at the 11-28 meeting.

Director Tilley introduced Molly Brown, the new Development Director, to the Commission.

Staff Reports and Information

Report from Executive Director

- Finances are in good shape – if anything, we are under spending. Some concern about contributed income but only down 8%.
- Service numbers down 15% at Brattonsville and 5% at the Children's Museum but up 2% at McCelvey and up 9% at the Museum of York County, mainly due to the new planetarium opening. November and December numbers were strong at MYCO. Brattonsville is the big concern – school groups have dropped but should recover in spring but general admission has shown a steady decline over the past five years. Brattonsville needs attention with something new and exciting to help reverse this trend. Discussed drop in Children's Museum numbers – small changes, not cause for concern Tracking regional demographics at sites was discussed. It was decided analysis is needed.
- Brick House still moving forward; design needs to be tweaked; should go out for bids in February; construction will not start until April – still on schedule
- MYCO roof – design work to begin on February 5; drawings will be ready by the end of February; construction will start in the spring
- The areas concerning Brattonsville will be included in the Strategic Objectives and Initiatives. **(David Plexico joined the meeting at this point.)**

- Christmas Candlelight had strong numbers this year even though they were a little down from last year, it was still the second highest total in five years; exceeded five-year average by 26%.
- The Secret Sisters Concert at the Lowry Theater in McCelvey had very good attendance with an estimated 350 people.
- We partner with the City of Rock Hill in their Christmasville event, which gives exposure to our Vernon Grant collection and drove the numbers at the Children's Museums to 980 over a four-day period.
- Regarding the Rainey House Project, information is still being gathered. The ad hoc committee is attempting to meet Friday for the first time. We need to see what level of support we can expect from the community, not just Sharon but the whole county, although it should start with Sharon; what can be done with the house; and are there people in the community who will donate money. Once some questions are answered and we can make some determinations, Tilley will report back to the Commission.
- Working Mission Statements for different sites
"Mother" Mission Statement: to communicate and preserve the natural and cultural histories of the Carolina Piedmont, inspiring a lifetime of learning.
 Tilley noted that each of our sites is unique and we need to define what makes each site unique and why is it special so we can allocate resources accordingly, recognizing where the greatest need is and/or the greatest potential for impact, all driven by the Mission Statement. There are five Mission Statements listed on the insert in your packet and they all go back to the Mother Mission Statement.
 Tilley read the site mission statements as set forth in the board packet insert which is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof as Addendum A. Tilley pointed out that there are two statements given for the McCelvey site, because of how different what is done in the theater is from the purposes of preserving things for future generations to make them available for research. Also, since the archival and research areas are moving to the Annex, staff thought it was better to split these two up.
 Tilley called for any questions or discussion.
 Getter questioned why "York County" records specifically were not mentioned in the Statement for York County Center for Historical Research and Preservation. Tilley noted as a valid point and that could be added.
 Craig inquired about the use of "Carolina Piedmont" in all statements as possibly being too broad. Further discussion ensued wherein it was decided that the area was intermingled and all somehow connected, and should not just be limited to York County.
 Tilley asked the Commissioners to review these statements, with the possible amendment noted by Getter in the 4th statement, before the February meeting, at which time Tilley will request Commission endorsement. It is at the discretion of the Commission to alter any of these statements.
- Strategic Objectives and Initiatives for 2013-2014
 The original plan was to have a Strategic Plan in place but due to limited time, it was decided what we really need at this point is to determine what we can do to make a difference. If we had done a Strategic Plan, we would have had much of the same initiatives.
 The fourteen initiatives we would like to see launched next year are based on the seven objectives listed on the insert in the board packet entitled "Strategic Objectives and Initiatives 2013-2014," which is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof as Addendum B.
 Tilley presented each objective and the underlying initiatives and took questions, comments and suggestions from the Commission.

After completion, Tilley offered the Objectives and Initiatives for the Commission's consideration and hopefully its endorsement at the February meeting. In the meantime, since we have to start the budgeting process, Tilley will work with County Treasurer Beth Latham and start putting some rough numbers in so that when we come back, we can pull them out or put them in but we work off of these. Latham has said if there are things contingent on external funding like a \$1,000,000 campaign, there is a way to do that but she needs to explain.

No Committee Reports

Old Business

Collections Committee Charter

- Pat Veasey presented the new Collections Committee Charter to the Commission, noting that there were only a few changes in wording from the original Charter. Veasey discussed the importance of having a collections committee in place and having the Charter approved for reasons already noted by Tilley with respect to looking at deaccessioning and coming up with policy. Tilley interjected that we need a policy endorsed by the committee and presented to the Commission; and then scope – what do we collect. Scope, policy and deaccession are the three issues Tilley sees the committee functionally working on. The committee advises/makes recommendations to the Commission and the Commission can enforce accountability.

Getter moved and Lee seconded to accept the Collections Committee Charter as presented; no discussion; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Preliminary Design Work at Historic Brattonsville
Tilley informed the Commission about the work relating to the recreation of an upcountry farmstead based on The Colonel Bratton House as mentioned in his report. Martin Meek has put in a bid to do the job at \$4,000. The money is in the budget. Even if the house was not recreated, it is solid documentation of what the house originally looked like and there will be a 3-D model of the house to show people to raise money. Informing Commission sufficient; no action required.
- Discussion of County Ordinance
Various issues regarding authority of County Manager as stated in the County HR policy and its applicability to the CHC were discussed, with the understanding that both are subject to County HR rules. Getter volunteered to work with Tilley on any necessary changes that could be made as a recommendation to the County Council.
Tilley also brought up that from a fundraising standpoint, this Commission is too small. Discussion ensued. Craig noted that originally the Governance Committee acknowledged the need for an advisory fundraising committee.
Hagner suggested moving forward quickly with any recommendation to the County Council since three readings would be required before any action could be taken.

Plexico stated that the meeting would now go into Executive Session for receipt of legal advice.

(David Duncan joined the meeting at this point via telephone conference call.)

Executive Session

- Legal Advice

Reconvene to Open Session

David Plexico stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Plexico moved to adjourn and Getter seconded; no discussion; a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: Barbara Ardrey

Submitted by: Dennis Getter, Secretary/Treasurer