

Ontario Museum of History & Art Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

President Chris Kueng called the Museum Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:05PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chris Keung

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

President	Chris Kueng
Board Members	Randy del Turco, Jerry Weems, Shannon Gerstheimer
Museum Arts & Culture Director	Marissa Kucheck
Council Liaison	Debra Dorst-Porada
Museum Associate Liaison	
Staff	Leslie Matamoros, Miriam Valle-Mancilla, Helen McAlary
Public	

ABSENT

Board Members	Rick Caughman
Museum Associate Liaison	Leslie Sherwood-James

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes (revised) for January 25, 2022, Randy del Turco, Jerry Weems & Shannon Gerstheimer

Minutes for February 22, 2022, Shannon Gerstheimer, second Randy Del Turco

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CITY COUNCIL LIASION DORST-PORADA

Comments

City council member Dorst-Porada shared that the items regarding the warehouse were moved and approved during the last city council meeting. She mentioned the environmental, financial obstacles, and regulations that the Dairy landowners are currently facing. She then mentioned the frustration of distribution warehouse job positions, encouraging folks to not only think of a

distribution warehouse but a company that has a different product, some examples mentioned, a company that manufactures prosthetics or a drug company that makes medications.

She then proceeded to share about the challenges of educating young children for math and science, and how the challenges can lead to not having the correct workforce for these upcoming hiring jobs. She introduced how the development of the warehouses, needs 8,500 signatures by March 30th to qualify for a ballot initiative, which includes the suggestion that the City of Ontario should not do anymore warehouses.

Council member Dorst-Porada mention the new bakery and lunch place that will open in downtown. It is planned for the Steak house to be open by Christmas time. These new developments are all funded privately. The new parking structure is moving along. Breaking ground for new apartments is expected to be in summer of August 2022.

She mentioned how the State of the city event was wonderful, which included Taste of Ontario, where residents visited the different department booths. She invited audience to attend the Farmer's Market that occurs weekly on Sunday to encourage farm workers to keep on having the Farmer's Market.

STAFF REPORTS

Directors Report

Museum Arts & Culture director Marissa Kuchek updated on accreditation, collections curator, Michelle is working on a collections plan working group, this is different from the policy. The plan is to focus on where we want to grow, how do we want to move forward with our collection. Museum board president Chris Kueng asked if this plan is required, Museum director Marissa Kuchek shared that it is recommended.

Marissa continued on with the education update. There was a total of 36 participants for the Dragon Egg Painting Workshop, on the same weekend the 2nd iteration of the emerging artist workshop took place, it was led by Curator of Education, Miriam Valle-Mancilla. Museum director proceeded to share on the topic of writing an Artist Statements and shared the diversity of artists who attended the workshop. There was a Water Wise Rock Garden that occurred on March 19, Jerry Weems participated and shared his enthusiasm and thanked the Curator of Education for the program.

Construction of the Built-on Water will conclude this month; March 2022. Board members asked if they can see the space, museum director Marissa Kuchek shared that the gallery is still an active construction site. She then mentioned that part of the construction also includes considering the VR activity, and modification may be needed to be done to make space for the VR experience.

Marissa Kuceck then shared about her visit to the off-site storage for collections, she is currently awaiting the arrival of the HVAC unit, hoped to arrive in April. Tentative move in date expected June 2022 due to the supply change going on in the world.

Revisited the proposal to remove the Thunderbird and restore to be featured as a work of public art on the Museum property. Museum director Marissa Kuceck reached out for an engineering quote from TransTech and resulted in a minimum of \$60,000 to plan and design. She explained that the quote does not include installing and construction of the Thunderbird. Council member Dorst-Porada asked questions about the specs of the bird, and recommended revisiting the quote. The board discussed the various ways to consider the design and justify the estimated quote.

State of the City, the museum team facilitated a Community Quilt and Button making activity, informed folks know about the museum, and distributed update bookmarks of the museum hours surveys. Council Member Porada asked if there is a residency question on the survey, Marissa shared that the survey asks for zip codes.

Museum Code of Conduct and Expulsion Policy

Marissa Kuceck

There was an adoption ordinance of 3194, this policy reflects the new ordinance and includes additional language that is specific to the language of the museum. Some examples include distance from artworks, the age needed for participation with adult supervision, not taking backpacks into the galleries. The expulsion policy stems from someone who may be in violation of the code of conduct, the first step would be for a staff member to ask the person not to be on the premises for 24 hours. The expulsion policies outlines what the process is if someone were to be expelled and banded from the museum. Henry from BBK (legal attorney) is present to answer any question regarding the legal side of this policy.

Board member Shannon shared her experience of the issue of strangers taking photos of children and families in the public. She proceeded to share her understanding of the state law regarding public photography. She reached out to the police department about their police, where they mentioned that in any indoor setting, people can appeal and ask to not be taken any photos, unless stated otherwise within the settings policy.

Attorney clarified that because photography is on public property, there is nothing the City can do. Disruption of patrons does not rise to that level due to first amendment rights. If there are circumstances where photography can be limited to lude pictures or obscure pictures, the PD can then be involved.

Board member Chris Keung suggested if a person was following a group, or if a person was being disrespectful and have been asked to not follow or take any pictures, will that fall under violation of the policy. Attorney, agreed with board member Shannon that the museum staff has agency and authority to remove the person, the staff cannot regulate what happens in the

public and images taken, but the staff can intervene and have authority. The staff cannot tell the photographer to stop taking photos, they can let the individual know to stop following a group. The museum is a public forum and is protected by the first amendment. If an individual targets a family or individual, there is harassment involved.

Board member Randy Del Turco asked, where in the expulsion policy does it protect the employee who intervenes and is harmed by doing their public duties? Attorney shared that there is a penal code that protects a city employee for doing their public duties. Marissa Kuchek, responds that this would be the process in which staff will call the police and there would be a letter that summarizes the incident. Randy Del Turco shared concerned about a situation being escalated and seeks reassurance that the employee is protected. Attorney shared that this policy is written for the public and not written for the employees. There is a general clause that suggested that the public follows state law regulations.

Motion to approve code of conduct and expulsion policy, RDT, second Jerry Weems.

Built on Water VR Experience Update

Leslie Matamoros, Curator of Exhibitions shared a presentation about the VR experience. Updates included staff researching oculus type of VR experiences that include a headset, shared that it can have a footprint in the exhibit and be used in group setting. She mentioned that the targeted audience are the citizens of Ontario, local school, residents of Ontario, museum visitors, local communities.

Exhibition Curator shared the first goal for this educational experience, is to be fun, engaging and have the audience leave with something. Global perspective, environmental changes look at the climate change and limited water resources. Council member Debbie shared concern about the history of Ontario being projected in the VR experience. She asked for the museum to consider how businesses and residents look at water. Board member Shannon shared the cultural shifts in education of young children through global and national news, shared the importance of influence for the local perspective of what is happening here and what topics local students should be concerned about. Director Marissa Kuchek, shared that the VR Experience is looking at Ontario's role globally and how our unique location responds to the environment and climate crisis. Marissa suggested revisiting how the "global experience" term can be updated.

Leslie continued to share the second goal for the VR experience, building Emotional Intelligence, connect people with environments, create a sense of empathy by comparing other communities. Randy Del Turco asked if there will be a presentation for the different water organizations? Leslie mentioned that giving a presentation to the different water organization is a great idea. Most of the water organizations know about the Ontario Museum of History & Art due to collaborative programs.

The third goal mentioned is being able to Integrate the different chapter heading from the exhibit. The interactive activity will extend the exhibit and give the museum the opportunity to

add more modules. Shannon Gerstheimer asked what chapter headings were and Leslie responded that there are 4 chapters. Chris Kueng commented about answering the chapter headings through the community surveys: "Where does water come from? Do we have enough water? Who makes the decisions?" Council member Debbie shared that Ontario has put in a good infrastructure for recycled water compared to other cities.

Leslie shared the last goal of accessing information and different learning skills. Shared the takeaways expected to have, learn about the water cycle, identify the success of Chaffey Brothers role in Ontario, and importance of preserving wildlife and plant life. Leslie introduced 4 different narrative choices:

1. Butterfly Migration, Leslie shared her experience of seeing this migration due to the environmental changes. Have the experience where a butterfly talks to the participant.
2. Have an environmental journalist perspective.
3. Chaffey Brothers interaction with the participants, bringing the artifact in the exhibit to life and work with the Chaffey Brothers in the water channels.
4. Following the life of a water droplet and share the local experience of water.

Debbie shared working with The Great Park in Ontario and connecting the migration to a location here in the city. Wants to make sure that the environmental journalists look and covers all the sides of the story.

Leslie shared about the physical space and use of the VR experience; the team is considering how the VR experience will be added to the space. If we want to have a group experience, individual experience or move the experience around. Leslie shared that the team could have a headset / space in the exhibit with parameters. Chris Kueng asked if the safe can be used for the VR experience. Leslie explained that construction and making the space ADA accessible adds construction costs. Chris Kueng does not want to compromise what was already planned for the exhibit and wants to be mindful of how the VR experience will add to the design of the exhibit, does not want to rule out the vault exhibit.

Randy Del Turco asked when the VR experience will launch. Leslie responded that we need to determine what the VR experience will be like, this will determine the timeline and complexity of the project. Additional funding will be needed depending on the scope of the project.

Shannon Gerstheimer then asked where in the decision-making process we are for the VR experience. Leslie shared that the team is at the point of determining the narratives, the different types of equipment and the decisions that need to be made within the next few weeks. Shannon Gerstheimer asked if the VR experience is a confirmed element of the Exhibit? Helen responded and confirmed that from a November board meeting when the Picnic Design was presented on the exhibit plan. The board wanted to have an immersive experience in the exhibit during the next board meeting, there was a presentation of immersive experience options, and the board selected the VR experience to be included in the exhibit. For this Board

meeting, Helen suggested the team to give feedback from the board about the narrative choices, how they can resonate with them and then share back with the committee.

Feedback:

Debbie is interested in the Chaffey Brothers narrative and the butterfly experience connecting with the current parks. Chris Kueng enjoys the Chaffey brothers, and the water droplet as part of the VR experience, as well as the monarch butterfly experience. Leslie added that one of the developers can do a 360-degree view of one of the parks and incorporate them in the exhibit. Jerry Weems added in support of the monarch butterfly interactive.

Randy Del Turco is interested in model colony, life cycle, butterfly. Shannon Gerstheimer liked the Lifecycle of a water droplet and go underground, Chaffey Brothers and the butterfly experience. Shannon added about the decision-making process to start with one or two oculus and do a small program to introduce the interactive and then purchase more.

The board thanked Leslie for her hard work.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Board Officer Elections

Randy nominates Chris Keung for Board President.

Chris Keung asked for all in favor to keep Chris Keung to continue being the Board of Trustees President.

President Pro Temp nomination: Rick Caughman, re-elected as president pro-temp. All in favor.

MUSEUM ASSOCIATES / LIAISON COMMENTS

None

MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

Comments

Shannon: Enjoyed the State of the City and attended the Community open house and family had a lot of fun. In response to the code of conduct, Shannon is satisfied with the protection for the employees and visitors. Thinks that the VR experience will be a big draw for our young audiences as they will learn information with the usage of technology. Thank Henry (attorney) for attending.

Jerry: Shared that he had a great time at the State of the City. Connected with an attendee at the event and shared introductions to City staff. Also invited attendee to programs and to

participated at Saturday's Water Wise workshop. The VR experience is exciting and great for the public. He also mentioned being excited to see what will come.

Randy: The city did a nice job with the presentation and scaling it down, looked professional. Randy thanked the staff and is looking forward to seeing how the bow exhibit will propel the museum and give exposure to communities and have the audiences talk about Ontario.

Chris: Built on water continues to evolve and is excited to see where the team is headed with the various interactives. He liked the possibilities of the VR experience for classrooms and adding to the Carlson Gallery Classroom. Appreciated reviewing the code of conduct. Made a comment on how the agenda report is presented with topic of report and who is presenting. Mentioned State of the City and commented on meeting individuals who made the print material for State of the City and seeing the flyers left on chairs. Commented that the city did not have a Keynote as they have in the past. Chris would like to know more details about the Thunderbird before agreeing to its movement but likes the idea of it as being part of the museum's public art or on display.

Board of Trustees all agreed on the presentation of the food at the State of the City.

Helen offered the VR experience to Shannon, Jerry and Randy, and can connect them with members of the library staff. She mentioned that there are age requirements for the use of the VR headsets at the library.

Debbie shared that Chaffey Community Museum of Art will be closed from now until May 4th. MGK shared about Then & Now: women artists of the Pomona Valley, in collaboration with the Chaffey Community Museum of Art that will open on Saturday June 11. VIP reception will be from 2:30PM – 4:00 PM followed by the Community reception 4 PM – 7PM.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Review and Update the Museum's Strategic Plan

Next Meeting : Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 6pm

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees Meeting was made by Board Member Randy Del Turco with a second by Board Member Jerry Weems with. Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Ontario Museum of History & Art Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2022

Page 9 of 9

Submitted:



Miriam Valle-Mancilla

Curator of Education

APPROVED:



Chris Kueng

President