

**MINUTES
MUSEUM OF THE GREAT PLAINS AUTHORITY
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019
5:30 P.M.**

Jill Ryans, Chair, called the **Regular Scheduled Meeting** of the Museum of the Great Plains Authority (MGPA) to order at 5:30 p.m., August 21, 2019, in the Museum of the Great Plains Louise D. McMahon Hall. Notice of the meeting and the Agenda were posted at City Hall and the entrance to the Museum of the Great Plains, as required by Law.

1. Roll Call. {Chair-Ryans, V/Chair-Zelbst, Treas-Cross, Sec-Wyatt, Gov-Page, IP/Chair-Bell}

PRESENT: Jill Ryans, Clay Zelbst, Jesse Cross (5:40), Minnette Page, Janice Bell, Paul Fisher, Joanne Gaasbeck, Mary Ann Hankins, Carolyn Anne Love, Tresea Moses, Diane Mullins, Juanita Pahdopony, and Marcus Wilcoxson.

ABSENT: Brady Wyatt, and Blaine Adair. **ALSO PRESENT:** John Hernandez, Bart McClenny, Mary Owensby, Debby Baroff, and Jim Whiteley (all MGPA Staff).

2. New Business – Discuss and take appropriate action

a. **June 2019 Minutes – Not available (Fisher)**

b. **July 2019 Minutes**

MOTION by Bell to accept the July Minutes as written. **SECONDED** by Page.

ROLL CALL ON MOTION: AYE: Ryans, Page, Bell, Fisher, Gaasbeck, Hankins, Love, Mullins, Pahdopony, and Wilcoxson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Zelbst and Moses. **MOTION CARRIED (10-2).**

c. **June 2019 Financial Statement**

MOTION by Bell to accept the June Financials. **SECONDED** by Hankins. **ROLL CALL ON MOTION: AYE:** Ryans, Zelbst, Page, Bell, Fisher, Gaasbeck, Hankins, Love, Moses, Mullins, Pahdopony, and Wilcoxson. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **MOTION CARRIED (12-0).**

d. **July 2019 Financial Statement – Not available from accountant**

e. **Automatic doors and other improvements**

McClenny reported he's getting estimates for automatic (handicap) door mechanisms for the front and side entry doors. Brady's Glass gave an estimate of \$50,000. Ryan Herring quoted a price of approximately \$15,000; however, his

company cannot do the work. McClenny will get other estimates and may contact the architects in Wichita Falls.

f. Medicine Park Aquarium reciprocal discount

McClenny stated MGP was contacted by the aquarium to see if we would participate in a reciprocal discount program. Visitors to the aquarium can bring their paid receipt to the museum and receive a \$2 discount on admission per receipt (not individuals). MGP visitors can visit the aquarium, show their paid receipt and receive \$2 off aquarium admission.

g. Lawton's 118th birthday (August 6, 2019)

Hernandez reported the museum hosted 540 visitors for Lawton's Birthday free admission day. Unfortunately, there are usually unsupervised children who see what they can damage and this day was no exception. The museum has been short staffed, but in the future more staff and volunteers will be present in the gallery to monitor especially the more active "hands-on" exhibits i.e., Mercantile Store and Print Shop. The museum offers four free days a year (one per quarter) as designated in our Limited Services Agreement with the City of Lawton.

3. Old Business - Discuss and Take Appropriate Action.

a. FY2020 board-related documents and membership status

McClenny distributed information and reminded the Board if they have not signed and returned the "Confidentiality Statement", please do so as soon as possible. Also, board members are asked to be a member of the museum at some level, so if you're not current, please join. Hernandez added, grantors look to see if all board members support the organization financially.

b. New Educator, Trevor Williams

McClenny reported Trevor Williams has been hired as the new Educator. His first day will be September 4th. Williams is moving from Erie, Colorado and is a graduate of Fort Hays State University with a Master's degree in Geosciences. He also attended Purdue University earning a Bachelor of Science degree.

c. Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) evaluation

McClenny reported Dan Dahm with SMM recently visited to evaluate the exhibits and see what repairs/replacements may be needed. Dahm will send a list with suggestions and costs of repair when completed, hopefully by the October board meeting.

d. McCasland Foundation request

A grant request will be sent to the McCasland Foundation for their next review cycle in October requesting monies to fund a study for plans for the Red River Trading Post exhibit.

e. Summer Program Report

Bell reported the Schoolhouse program was very successful. Mullins said for next year, Diane Denham has volunteered to have a play where students will make their own costumes and sets, for a performance at the end of the week for parents. Ryans said the reception for students and parents was fun and well attended. Pahdopony suggested a story telling program perhaps in the winter.

5. Executive Director's Report

a. AMBUCS schoolhouse project

Hernandez reported that several local AMBUCS clubs funded and constructed the new ramp and composite decking on the schoolhouse. A large group of their volunteers were here installing the ramp/deck on a recent Saturday and Sunday with temperatures in the triple digits. They provided everything they needed at absolutely no cost to the museum!

b. New Facilitator, Erica Barnes

Hernandez stated Erica Barnes has been hired as a weekend gallery facilitator. This position has been open for some time so it will be good to have someone in the gallery to monitor activities and assist the visiting public each Saturday and Sunday.

c. Fire Sprinkler repairs

Hernandez reported the Fire Protection System is still yellow tagged with a 5-year obstruction test due which remains a deficiency from last year's annual inspection. Although the museum is in a City owned building and there's a Cooperative Agreement with the City stating they will pay for major repairs over \$600, the City is refusing to pay the approximately \$4,000 for this needed inspection as required by NFPA 25. Hernandez is in contact with the Fire Marshal.

Hernandez also reported the Oklahoma Museum Network (OMN) of which MGP is one of five member museums, is proposing a change in the fee schedule which will accommodate all five museums. The network was initially funded by the Donald W Reynolds Foundation but those funds are almost gone. The network provides each museum with a rotating temporary exhibit every six months.

5. Institute President's Report

Fisher reported the IGP board did meet. The new shelving system is installed and complete. The next meeting will be September 19th.

6. Comments and/or Audience Participation

The next Authority board meeting will be moved to September 25th. Staff will be attending the annual Oklahoma Museum Association conference on September 18th-20th.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Owensby, Exec Asst

For **Brady Wyatt, Secretary**

Museum of the Great Plains Authority (MGPA) Board of Trustees