

TULARE COUNTY MUSEUM BOARD MEETING

November 15, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.

The Museum Board members met on November 15, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Present were Kevin Caskey, Amy King, Louise Jackson, Joanne Ledbetter, Neil Pilegard, and Darla Wegener. No one was absent. Brooke Sisk, General Services Assistant Director, and Janet Zaragoza, Community Outreach Specialist were also present.

The agenda was approved as written. (Motion - Neil, 2nd - Louise)

The minutes were approved as written. (Motion – Joanne, 2nd - Neil)

Correspondence: Amy received a card from Dallas Pattee, Tulare County Historical Society member, expressing her positive comments regarding the Korean exhibit reception. She did say that it was hard for her to hear and was concerned others felt the same about the acoustics in the AG museum. Amy also received a letter from Teddy Celaya regarding the Korean exhibit reception. He indicated that he was happy with the exhibit and proud that his family was featured in it. Amy received an email from Steve Hicks complimenting the museum staff on excellent customer service!

Public Comments: Brooke Sisk stated that Amy is working with staff on putting together a Strategic Plan for the museum that will be taken to the Board of Supervisors in March of 2019. It will highlight the goals of the museum for the future as well as accomplishments that have been made toward making the museum into a large part of the community.

MUSEUM CURATOR INPUT:

⇒**School Visits:** School Visits in September – 0 schools, 0 kids, 0 adults, 0 total.

School Visits in October – 4 schools, 217 kids, 35 adults, 252 total.

⇒**Total Museum Visits (Not including the school visits):** Total Museum (not including school visits) Visitors for the month of September – 1197 adults, 393 kids, 1590 total **in September of 2017 there were 443 adults, 241 kids, 684 total.

Total Museum (not including school visits) Visitors for the month of October – 750 adults, 322 kids, 1072 total **in October of 2017 there were 692 adults, 448 kids, 1140 total.

⇒**Donations:**

- Ellen Nickell has 24 ladies hats, some with hat boxes, that are circa 1930s-1950s worn by Billie Harrell, long time Visalia resident. The board voted to accept this donation (Motion – Joanne, 2nd – Louise)
- Tamara Galli has a piano that was owned by the Emma Zumwalt. The board voted to accept this donation (Motion – Kevin, 2nd – Louise)
- Arveta Inman has a blouse and skirt that belonged to Annie Mitchell estate. The board voted to accept this donation (Motion – Darla, 2nd – Louise)
- Thomas Stroben has a cotton hoe that he would like to donate and then also a gendron wagon that he would like to loan to the museum. The board voted to accept the cotton hoe (Motion – Kevin, 2nd – Joanne) and voted to decline the loan of the wagon (Motion – Louise, 2nd – Darla)
- Diane Rich has a Visalia Oaks seat cushion for the Visalia baseball team before they changed their name to Rawhide. The board voted to decline this donation (Motion – Kevin, 2nd – Darla)
- Dan Tarbell has a buggy that belonged to his great grandfather from Badger in 1906. He took it to Big Stump and it is all original metal with new wood. The board needs pictures or more information before voting. Amy and Neil will go look at it and get photos and bring it to the next meeting.

⇒**Maintenance and exhibit update:** Regular cleaning is being done. Our volunteers Bob and Stan have restored the two signs near the caboose, one says Woodlake and one says Visalia. They also fixed a broken step on the caboose and built shelves for the cases in Surprise School. They are now working on the Surprise School porch. The museum staff put together a display for the Tulare County Fair in September to promote the museum. The WWI display was installed and Amy went with veterans to speak to classrooms at several schools. The WWI Centennial Commemoration event on Sunday, November 11 was well attended and went very smoothly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

⇒**Budget:** Neil reported that the museum is on target as the fiscal year is half over and the museum has used about half the budget allotment.

⇒**Farm Equipment Project:** There have been seven items delivered to the schools and three more are being delivered today to Strathmore High School and Lindsay High School. The next goal is to deaccess the items that no longer belong in the collection and get a building in place to house the items that are restored and returned to the museum.

NEW BUSINESS:

⇒**Mearle's Sign:** The sign has been sitting in the museum storage for years and there is an opportunity to have it restored and displayed at another museum. The board will discuss the possibility and decide the best course of action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The annual fundraiser was on Sunday, October 7 and was very successful. We were able to raise about \$15,000! Saturday, November 3 was Museum Day for the Fresno Museum Alliance. Amy will be meeting with a new volunteer at the end of the month.

Darla announced that there is a WWI exhibit at the library that is on display. She also announced that the Book Festival at the library will be on April 13, 2019!

CURATOR REPORT: Amy attended the California Native American Day in Sacramento on Friday, September 28. Amy spoke at the Woodlake Rotary on October 4 to promote the museum and historical society. Amy attended the County Center Rotary meeting on October 16 at Brian Blain's house/museum. Amy attended the Western Museum Association conference in Tacoma, WA to learn more about small museums, deaccession, engaging young audiences, and much more!

The meeting is adjourned at 3:00 p.m. **Next meeting** scheduled for **January 17, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**