

TULARE COUNTY MUSEUM BOARD MEETING

January 17, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

The Museum Board members met on January 17, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Present were Kevin Caskey, Amy King, Louise Jackson, Joanne Ledbetter, and Darla Wegener. Neil Pilegard was absent. Brooke Sisk, General Services Assistant Director was also present.

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

The minutes were approved as written. (Motion – Darla, 2nd - Louise)

Correspondence: None to report at this time.

Public Comments: Brooke Sisk wished everyone Happy New Year and stated that she was excited for all of the exciting new things that are in store for the museum this year. She reminded everyone that there is a Brown Act training on January 28 & 29 that everyone is encouraged to attend.

MUSEUM CURATOR INPUT:

⇒**School Visits:** School Visits in November – 9 schools, 483 kids, 116 adults, 599 total.

School Visits in December – 2 schools, 92 kids, 15 adults, 107 total.

⇒**Total Museum Visits (Not including the school visits):** Visitors for the month of November –646 adults, 246 kids, 892 total **in November of 2017 there were 416 adults, 302 kids, 718 total.

Total Museum (not including school visits) Visitors for the month of December –334 adults, 142 kids, 684 total **in December of 2017 there were 282 adults, 212 kids, 494 total.

⇒**Donations:**

- Ryan Stafford has a doll house replica of the “Visalian” house. Louise made a motion and Kevin a second that the board accept this item. The board voted to accept the donation.
- Jeannette Staebler has a framed photo of the End of the Trail statue in snow. Kevin made a motion and Louise a second that the board accept this item. The board voted to accept the donation.
- Linda Gosling has a painting of Halstead Meadow and a photo of Cora Kirkland Halstead. Darla made a motion and Kevin a second that the board accept these items. The board voted to accept the donation.
- Alan Wells has a cultivator, plow, and planter (small farm implements). Kevin made a motion and Louise a second that the board accept these items. The board voted to accept the donation.
- Mel Smith has the Official Historical Atlas of Tulare County from 1892. The board needed to see the item, so Amy will pick it up from Bakersfield to present at the next board meeting.
- Calvin Davis has two hooks from the old Visalia courthouse that were used for the robes of judges. Joanne made a motion and Louise a second that the board accept these items. The board voted to accept the donation.
- Raymond Fuentes has an old gas pump. Kevin made a motion and Darla a second that the board accept this item. The board voted to accept the donation. (When Amy called to let him know the board accepted the item he stated he wanted to sell it. It is likely he will not donate it to the museum.)

⇒**Maintenance and exhibit update:** Regular cleaning is being done. Our volunteers Bob and Stan have made a lot of progress on Surprise School; they have stabilized the columns on the porch and done a considerable amount of caulking and priming on the outside. Amy will look into prices for a new roof on the Surprise School. The roof is leaking in the gun room and the guns had to be taken off display until the roof is fixed properly. Shaun has also been working to get the lamp posts working on the museum grounds. Brooke Sisk indicated to the board that the county had Dennis Lehman inspect the roof and decide on some options and it looks like the roof may be able to be replaced free of charge to the museum. The county will have to pay \$6,000 for a mold abatement prior to the roof work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

⇒**Budget:** Neil was not present to report on the budget.

⇒**Farm Equipment Project:** Carl has been talking with a company on getting a 80'x100' building that will be placed near the AG museum to house the returned/restored farm equipment. He got an estimate on the cement that was pretty high and so the building may need to be smaller to be within the budget. He will talk with Neil when he returns.

⇒**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 decided that de-accession is the best course of action to preserve the sign as the museum will not have money to restore the sign, there is no place to properly display the sign, and it also does not fit with anything else in the collection.

NEW BUSINESS:

⇒**Arte Americas:** Amy met with Nancy Marquez from Art Americas at their building in Fresno earlier this week. They are doing an exhibit about Latino history in the Central Valley called Caminos. They would like Tulare County to be represented and asked that Amy loan a Salazar saddle and some text panels and pictures from the Bracero exhibit. Amy has asked her to provide insurance and assurance that the saddle will be secured in a locking case. Amy provided measurements of the saddle to Nancy. When Amy hears back then a decision will be made.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: C-SPAN came to the museum to interview Terry Ommen and Amy about local history for a show that they are producing that will air February 2 & 3. Louise Jackson was also interviewed as well as Jonathan Waltmire from the Tulare County Library.

We have a new volunteer Shenee, who has been working to properly catalogue our framed artwork/picture collection. Our other volunteer, Jim, has scanned all of the donation records and will now start uploading them into PastPerfect.

The Tulare County Historical Society is having its annual membership meeting on Sunday, January 27 at 2:00 p.m. at the Exeter museum.

Darla announced that the Book Festival at the library will be on April 13, 2019! They are in need of volunteers and people willing to host booths on that day. The museum/historical society will look into having a booth again this year.

CURATOR REPORT: Amy is working on putting together a Strategic Plan for the museum that will drive efforts towards goals and indicate the need for funding in certain areas. This will be helpful in tracking progress toward expanding the museum.

Another big project that Amy has started to work on is creating a cultural coalition with Tulare County museums, libraries, art galleries, and the like.

The meeting is adjourned at 3:00 p.m. **Next meeting** scheduled for **February 21, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**