

# TULARE COUNTY MUSEUM BOARD MEETING

February 21, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

The Museum Board members met on February 21, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Present were Kevin Caskey, Amy King, Neil Pilegard, Joanne Ledbetter, and Darla Wegener. Louise Jackson was absent. John Hess, General Services Director, Supervisor Shuklian, Carl Switzer, Tulare County Historical Society Board Member, and Tom Link, Tulare County Historical Society President were also present.

The minutes were approved as written. (Motion – Darla, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Neil)

**Correspondence:** None to report at this time.

**Public Comments:** John Hess reported that the lily pond in Mooney Grove Park is part of the public art project. It is not in good condition and will be repurposed to evoke a memory of the lily pond. The perimeter will be removed to make a modest/smaller interpretive display. The county will work with Amy on making a sign that tells the history and perhaps shows old photos.

Tom Link reported that the Tulare County Historical Society is doing well and has its next meeting on Saturday, March 23 at 9:00 AM at Brian Blain's house.

## MUSEUM CURATOR INPUT:

⇒**School Visits:** School Visits in January – 1 school, 10 kids, 3 adults, 13 total.

⇒**Total Museum Visits (Not including the school visits):** Visitors for the month of January –450 adults, 255 kids, 705 total \*\*in January of 2018 there were 498 adults, 305 kids, 803 total.

## ⇒Donations:

- Alan & Jo George have offered a cup and saucer with a scene from Porterville, a cup and saucer with the Cliff House in San Francisco on it, 2 pairs of shoes worn by grandfather, and 3 paperweights (one with a tree, the Cliff House, and a Ferry Building on them) The board needs to see the items or photos in order to accept any of the items, so Amy will request those.
- Jesse Villarreal is a past Clamper President and wants to donate a marker they placed in Traver near the old post office. The board voted unanimously to accept this item.
- Jason Jones has offered a tool for hand sowing seeds that is functional, a hand carved shoulder yolk likely used to carry water buckets, and a logging implement. The board voted unanimously to accept these three items.

## ⇒Maintenance and exhibit update:

- Surprise School Restoration – Bob and Stan, our volunteers, have been working on putting caulking and primer on the exterior of Surprise School. The next step is for them to paint.
- Women's History Month Display – Amy will be borrowing some items from the Tulare County Library that will showcase women who have influenced our local history and install that in the museum for the month of March.
- Women's History Month Tea Event (Saturday, March 30 @ 2:00 PM) We are selling tickets for \$15 each to attend the tea party and hear Jackie McDougal Weiner speak about women's history in the Surprise School. We have sold 13 tickets so far and will only be selling 40 tickets maximum due to limited space.
- Main Street Jamboree (Saturday, May 11 from 10 AM to 3 PM) – Amy reported that there are many vendors/participants already confirmed for the event and it looks to be a fun day!

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

⇒**Budget:** Neil reported that the museum is on target for the budget year.

⇒**Farm Equipment Project:** Carl reported on the progress made throughout the past few years on the project of cataloging, assessing, and delivering farm implements to the local high schools for restoration. He showed a video documenting this process and talked about the new building that will be built to house these items upon their return. John Hess noted that this matter will go before the Board of Supervisors on April 9 to ask for support in constructing this new building. Amy presented the final list of items that have been agreed upon to de-access from the collection. Darla made a motion, Joanne seconded and the board voted unanimously to accept the list and move forward to the next step in the process of having the items de-accessed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

⇒**San Joaquin Valley Portuguese Festival in Turlock:** Amy received a notice that this event was looking for items to be loaned for their event that will be held in Turlock at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds. They do have insurance and Amy would like to have items on display there to get the museum some recognition, however, Amy is committed to working at the Tulare County Library Book Festival on that same day, April 13. If there is a way to safely display items and not have someone present, Amy will look into that as an option.

⇒**Adios Amore Film Screening:** Amy received a request by Laurie Coyle to hold a screening of a documentary that she has created on Maria Moreno and her work in the farm labor sector. It talks about the time in history leading up to Caesar Chavez and is relevant to local history. Amy will set up a time for the board to see it before deciding ultimately to host a screening at the museum. The documentary is set to air in September on PBS, so any time before then we would have the event. Darla also offered to partner with the library as a joint effort to highlight local history.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

⇒Amy submitted applications to have a booth at the Library Book Festival – April 13. Last year Louise and Amy went and it was a great way to promote the library and museum!

⇒Amy will be attending the American Alliance of Museums conference in May to learn more about creating a sustainable museum. The classes are valuable in offering techniques for smaller museums working with a small staff and budget. Previous conferences have provided great ideas for events and displays.

## **CURATOR REPORT:**

⇒Tulare County Arts Coalition – Amy has been meeting with this group to further arts in education and was able to possibly secure interns for the museum. They would be paid through a grant and be assigned specific projects at the museum.

⇒Conference of California Historical Societies – Tom Link asked Amy to attend this conference on behalf of the Tulare County Historical Society in June of 2019. Once registration is open and more details on the conference are available Amy will look into attending.

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