

TULARE COUNTY MUSEUM BOARD MEETING

August 15, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

The Museum Board members met on August 15, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Present were Kevin Caskey, Amy King, Neil Pilegard, Darla Wegener, Ann Johnson and Joanne Ledbetter. No one was absent. Also present were Katrina Fernandez, analyst with General Services Department and Kate Stover from the Tulare County Office of Education.

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

Correspondence: Louise Jackson will be sending the board members notes in the mail in response to our card.

Public Comments: None to report at this time.

MUSEUM CURATOR INPUT:

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

⇒**Total Museum Visits (Not including the school visits):** Total Museum (not including school visits) Visitors for the month of July – 527 adults, 290 kids, 817 total **in July of 2018 there were 560 adults, 389 kids, 949 total.

⇒**Donations:**

- Ron Redfield has offered a thermograph that was used in the citrus orchards to record the temperature. The board voted unanimously to accept the item.
- Bob Cottrell has offered a crayon photograph done by A.R. Moore of a giant sequoia tree with a couple of rangers on horses in front. The board voted to table this until the next meeting to see if there is going to be any cost in shipping before voting to accept the item.
- Lou Ann Salomonson has offered some newspapers that have articles regarding the flood. The board voted to unanimously accept this item.

⇒**Maintenance and exhibit update:**

- Our volunteers Bob & Stan have been working to stabilize the oak fort near the log cabin by securing the wooden beams.
- Amy has reached out to some of the pioneer families in the area for the Westward Settlers exhibit to hopefully open in the fall.
- A tree fell on the museum fence and the water tower near the Emken House on July 4th and will hopefully be cleaned up and fence fixed soon.
- PARC is scheduled to come and do the mold abatement in the gun/saddle room on Monday, August 19.
- Amy has been working to plan a centennial celebration for the End of the Trail statue for Sunday, September 29 tentatively.
- Amy has been working to secure activities for Main Street Jamboree in April of 2020. Quesadilla Gorilla is confirmed as the food and the Golden West HS band will play for an hour. There are more things in the works like a mascot race and more musical entertainment.
- Amy will be meeting with Nancy Marquez from Arte Americas to talk about hosting a traveling exhibit from them called Caminos.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

⇒**Budget:** Neil reported that the museum is on a roll over budget and we are waiting until September when the new fiscal year budget will be approved. The board of Supervisors will approve the new budget at the September 10th meeting. The Capital Improvement Projects funding will be approved this Tuesday, August 20.

⇒**Farm Equipment Project:** Amy reported that she will join Don and Carl at a meeting with a group of High School AG teachers at the end of the month to see about getting them involved in the restoration projects as well. They are putting together a presentation and will be offering the teachers the opportunity to come and select the pieces that they would like to restore with their students.

⇒**Museum Mission, Vision, Values (updated):** Amy went over the strategic plan with the board as an overview/introduction to the overall plan for the museum. The board is encouraged to spend more time with it and bring any additional questions or suggestions to Amy. Although this will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on September 17, it is a living document and will be edited as tasks are completed and new goals assigned.

⇒**Marines Recruiting Sign:** Amy and Maria, a General Services analyst, have submitted the information from Dan Kelley along with a written request to County Counsel for advice on how to proceed in this matter. We are still waiting to hear back from them. Amy gave Dan this same update and informed him she would let him know of any progress or updates.

⇒**Film Screening:** The documentary Adios Amore will be shown in the museum theater on Sunday, September 15 at 4:00 p.m. Laurie Coyle, who created the documentary, will be in attendance for a question and answer session after. COS and Porterville college will also be holding screenings the prior Thursday and Friday in an effort to bring awareness to this film and the history it portrays. It falls in line perfectly with Hispanic Heritage Month and is a tribute to the culture that is in our community.

NEW BUSINESS:

⇒**PAC Meeting Update:** Kevin Caskey and Amy King attended the most recent Parks Advisory Committee meeting on August 8. Kevin, as part of a smaller committee that has been tasked with generating ideas for how to move forward with the Lily Pond project had a meeting prior to this meeting. The proposals were as follows: 1. Do nothing with the lily pond, 2. Tear down the Lily Pond, 3. Tear down the Lily Pond and build a monument in its place, 4. Put a fence around the pond and ask for donations for the restoration of the Lily Pond. John Rodgers, a community member, is very adamant about fully restoring the pond to have water and fish in it. While this would cost upwards of \$500,000, there is also the issue of ongoing maintenance. Kevin spoke at the meeting advocating to tear down the Lily Pond as it is unsafe and has deteriorated beyond use. Amy spoke and offered an idea to place signs throughout the park where the different things were, such as the carousel, that people remember with photos and information and even QR codes so people can go on an audio tour. This would require less one time funding and ongoing maintenance. The committee ultimately decided to recommend to the board that they will put a fence around the Lily Pond and ask people to donate money to the cause and see what can be raised in five years.

⇒**CreateTC:** Kate Stover from the Tulare County Office of Education was present to speak to the mission and vision of CreateTC, which is part of a larger initiative called CreateCA. These groups are advocated for getting the arts back into schools to ensure that students have adequate access to the arts. This is a community wide effort that will be taking place to bring awareness to this issue. Amy asked that at the next meeting the museum board consider adopting the resolution to become a “champion for the arts”. The museum will be featured at the state level as a supporter of the arts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

⇒ The Museum Alliance of Tulare County will be taking a proclamation to the Board of Supervisors on September 17 in honor of the National Museum Day through the Smithsonian, which is on September 21.

⇒ The annual fundraiser will be on Sunday, October 6 at 3:30 p.m. at the museum.

CURATOR REPORT:

- ⇒ Amy has been asked by Jonathan Waltmire at the library history room to be a partner in the process of creating a Memory Lab through a grant the library is applying for through the DC Public Library system.
- ⇒ Amy will be meeting with the Greater Fresno Area Museum Alliance again at the end of the month.
- ⇒ Amy will be setting up another meeting with the Museum Alliance of Tulare County early next month.

The meeting is adjourned at 3:00 p.m. **Next meeting** scheduled for **September 19, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.**