Joplin History and Mineral Museum

Advisory Board Minutes

March 7, 2024

3:30

Joplin History and Mineral Museum

504 S. Schifferdecker

Joplin, MO 64801

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paula Callihan, Kyle Denham, Chad Stebbins, Chris Wiseman

ABSENT:

Brad Belk, Bob Harrington, Paul Bloomberg, Patrick Tuttle, Mark Fahrnham

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chris Wiseman called the Special Meeting (make up meeting for postponed Feb. 15, 2024, meeting) to order.

APROVAL OF MINUTES:

Paula Callihan made motion to approve the minutes with a second by Chad Stebbins

OLD BUSINESS:

Chris Wiseman presented a wrap up of visitation, tours and giftshop sales totals for FY2023.

Chris explained that visitation was slow, museum is in slowest part of the year.

Kyle expressed surprise at the volume of gift shop sale from last fiscal year and that gift shop sales outpaced visitation for past two months.

Chris reported the opening of new exhibit "Uplifting Joplin, Black History in Joplin." An opening reception was held visitor response has been positive.

Chris reported that Seneca High School attended a workshop on mineral identification, then toured the museum. The workshop is a new addition to the tour programming, mainly geared towards middle and high school students.

Chris reported that the Joplin Historical Society had begun a survey of its collections to determine what items could be removed or stored from active display. This is in line with one of PGAV's recommendations to narrow the focus of items on display to better tell Joplin's story.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chris reported that the museum has been approved to host the Smithsonian Habitats exhibit. He needs to meet with parks to start working out a timeline for construction.

Paula asked for how long would we have the exhibition?

Chris replied for two years, with the license being extendable if needed. He estimated a 12 month build time, dependent on the availability of parks maintenance to assist with labor.

After reviewing bids for pest control the museum has changed providers and now uses Bug-A-Way.

Chris said that the museum is currently applying for the Lemons charitable trust grant. He is planning on using the funds to acquire materials to construct the Smithsonian Habitats exhibit.

Chris reported that the museum was requesting bids for several items approved as capital improvements in the current budget. A security system upgrade, Painting Museum exterior, and interior hallway and multipurpose room (Cox Hall), new flooring for Cox Hall. Unfortunately, there is an issue on the boiler replacement, and he is working with Parks Maintenace to get a more accurate estimate to create an RFP. It was suggested that an engineering firm be retained to determine the needs of the museum for a new system.

The museum cataloging project has slowed to a crawl. The loss of the museum assistant has staff spread thin, and the time-consuming nature of the cataloguing process has caused the project to stall.

Paula asked on the progress of finding a new assistant. Chris answered that two people had been offered the position, but both refused the job offer. He asked if the board knew of any candidates to please let him know.

Chris asked the board if they knew of any candidates for additional advisory board members. Alan Shirley's death and Nancy Messick's resignation has left two open positions.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chris Wiseman gave updates on visitation, tours, and gift shop sales for January and February.

ADJOURNMENT:

Kyle Denham made a motion to adjourn with a second by Paula Callihan.

Motion to approve minutes made on April 18, 2024, by Chad Stebbins and second by Kyle Denham

Submitted By:

Chris Wiseman, Curator

