

# METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD MINUTES

March 22, 2017

## Present

Elio Palacios, Jr., Chair  
Mary Hughes, Vice Chair  
Holly Evans (arrived 4:22pm)  
Dorothy Fadakar  
Rose Monge

## Museum Staff Present

Alex Nguyen, Acting Museum Director/ Asst. City Mgr.  
Brenda Focht, Senior Admin. Curator  
Ann Lovell, Senior Admin. Analyst  
Toni Kinsman, Senior Office Specialist

## Absent

Jennifer Binkley  
Todd Carpenter  
Chuck Wilson

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:07pm with no quorum until H. Evans arrived at 4:22pm.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**1. Minutes- February 8, 2017-** The minutes were approved as written.

Motion: M. Hughes

Second: R. Monge

Ayes: All

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

E. Palacios requested the title of this agenda section be edited to Board Chair Report.

**2. Article- Palacios, Jr., Elio. "Harada House a witness to history, hope for better future"**

Distributed to the Board.

**3. Article- Vankin, Deborah. "Roosevelt's signed Executive Order 9066 on Japanese American internment to go on view in LA".**

The full article is available online for viewing. Elio wanted the Board to be able to view one of the original 9066 documents in person for a more personal experience.

## REPORT ON MUSEUM OPERATIONS

**4. Return Grant Funds in Amount of \$3,000 to National Trust for Historic Preservation and \$5,000 to Riverside Museum Associates**

This report will go to City Council for return of funds. The Museum Board motioned to accept the report and return the funds accordingly.

Motion: M. Hughes

Second: R. Monge

Ayes: All

**5. Sunshine Ordinance for Metropolitan Museum Board**

The Sunshine Ordinance now applies to all City Boards & Commissions which requires 12 days for public agenda viewing versus the previous 3 days. There are certain exceptions allowed for special circumstances with reduced publishing deadlines. This change requires agenda items to be submitted weeks prior to a meeting date so staff may prepare agenda reports and do additional research if needed. The timeline suggested is 25 days prior to each meeting date.

A motion was made to receive and accept the Sunshine Ordinance report.

Motion: D. Fadakar

Second: R. Monge

Ayes: All

### **6. American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Reaccreditation Progress Report**

The report addresses the 3 primary concerns of AAM from the reaccreditation visit:

Basketry Collection- the Museum wrote a response letter to AAM reporting that 4% of their basketry collection is on display, the current Cahuilla exhibit has received major funding and the significance of owning a basket that has been featured on a US Postal Service stamp. Staff has proposed curating a traveling basket exhibition with Museum artifacts.

Archives- the issue of collections basement storage was addressed in the last reaccreditation report. The plan is to move sensitive materials (archives and selected natural history collections) from the Museum basement to the Rumsey Storage Facility until a central archives is built for the City. Natural history taxidermy and botanical collections will also be relocated to the Rumsey Storage Facility. The earth sciences collection would remain in the Museum basement.

Harada House- this is the most complex issue with many plans on file. What is needed is a current structural assessment of the Harada House. A March 9, 2017 memo from Structural Focus was submitted with the progress report with their professional opinion. Director of General Services, Carl Carey was present at the meeting and advised that an updated plan for the structural status is needed. A motion was made to accept the AAM progress report.

Motion: H. Redfern

Second: D. Fadakar

Ayes: All

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

#### **7. Standing Rules Revision**

The document was approved as submitted with the revised Board date change.

Motion: M. Hughes

Second: R. Monge

Ayes: All

#### **8. Appointment of Sub-Committee for Discussion of Revenue Opportunities for Naming Museum Spaces**

Discussion on this item was postponed to the May Board meeting to allow for Chuck Wilson to be in attendance.

#### **9. Museum Department Priorities for Budget Engagement Commission Measure Z Spending**

A request for the Museum to be allocated approximately \$15 million to be used towards Museum expansion. The Board appointed Chair Elio Palacios to attend the April 6<sup>th</sup> Budget Engagement Commission meeting as the Metropolitan Museum Board representative and motioned to support the expansion plans with Measure Z funding.

Motion: D. Fadakar

Second: R. Monge

Ayes: All

#### **10. Determine whether Board Member Jennifer Binkley's absence from the February 8, 2017 Metropolitan Museum Board Meeting should be recorded as an excused or unexcused absence.**

No notice or contact from Jennifer was given for the February meeting. It was motioned to approve as excused.

Motion: M. Hughes

Second: D. Fadakar

Ayes: All

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (written reports to be distributed for each Committee update)

**11. RMM Board Harada House Project Committee-** Current Board representatives on the Committee are M. Hughes, T. Carpenter, C. Wilson and J. Binkley. R. Monge expressed interest to join the Committee but cannot yet due to Brown Act and quorum. The Museum Board made the motion to accept Rose as an alternate under the contingency that she can replace J. Binkley when she formally resigns. The next meeting will be March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**12. RMM Collections Committee-** a temporary pause on the moratorium for collections acceptance was lifted to accept a donation of pennants from a local donor as well as a set of 4 chairs from the east to be used in furnishing the Heritage House. These items will appear in April for Board approval.

**13. RMM Exhibitions Committee-** the next meeting will be held in April. Staff has updated a case and bilingual label in the Curiosities exhibit.

**14. Budget/ Development Committee-** this meeting was planned to be held quarterly with an update by May. Ann Lovell will schedule a meeting with T. Carpenter. Alex will have an update of Museum accounts then as well.

**15. Riverside Museum Associates (RMA)-** a report was given by Rose Monge of the Multicultural Council that they are currently exploring and in a planning phase for cultural dialogues regarding issues of immigration. The Family Village Festival event has been postponed to 2018 to allow for fundraising. A rummage sale in the summer has been proposed.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

**16. Public Comment Period-** letters of support for the Harada House were mailed to the Museum Board from Naomi Harada and Kimiko Arlene Harada Klein, granddaughters of Jukichi and Ken Harada. They will be uploaded for public record.

Michiko Yoshimura, local chapter President of the Japanese American Citizens League was present at the meeting to speak of supporting the Harada House. She is also a member of the Harada House Project Committee.

**17. Brief reports on conferences, seminars, and meetings attended by Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board Members-** none at this time.

**18. Items for future Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board consideration as requested by Board members.**

April- Elio requested a general Harada House line item as well as a discussion item on creating a Museum Foundation.

An absence report for Todd, Chuck & Jennifer will be presented for approval.

A report from the City Attorney's office regarding the terms of the acceptance of the Harada House was requested for the May Board meeting.

**19. Adjournment-** the meeting adjourned at 5:22pm.