

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD MINUTES

May 10, 2017

Present

Elio Palacios, Jr., Chair
Mary Hughes, Vice Chair
Dorothy Fadakar
Chuck Wilson
Todd Carpenter
Rose Monge (left 5:00pm)
Holly Evans (left 5:11pm)

Museum Staff Present

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes- April 12, 2017- The minutes were approved with the following corrections:
Ellen Estilai attended as a member of the public, remove Inlandia association. Correction to Pastor Monrow Mabon's name.
Motion: C. Wilson
Second: H. Evans
Ayes: All

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Board Chair Elio Palacios reported that he attended the Budget Engagement Commission meeting and spoke on behalf of the Museum Board.
Chair Palacios suggested having the Museum's basketry collection on display at the upcoming Cheech Marin Center. Brenda Focht explained why it is not a good idea.

2. For Distribution: National Park Service- Harada House

Per Chair Palacios' request, the *Historic Preservation from the Ground Up: Harada House* document published by the National Park Service was distributed.

REPORT ON MUSEUM OPERATIONS

Director Nguyen provided copies of the Museum Management Consultant's (MMC) Benchmark and Museum Assessment report to the Museum Board members. The Benchmark Report and Museum Assessment will be available soon for public viewing online, and a printed copy available in the City Clerk's office. A presentation by MMC to City Council is scheduled for 7pm on May 23, 2017. The report includes 29 recommendations. The timeline for the Director recruitment from contract start to hiring is about 4-6 months.

A meeting regarding Harada House took place last month with subject matter experts - historic preservationist architect, conservator, general services staff, structural engineer - and the three Museum Board representatives from the Harada House Project Committee as well as select Museum staff were in attendance. A report of the current conditions and engineering challenges of the entire Harada House, including pricing and options to approach/ repair, has been requested. The Museum will also need to issue a request for proposals for an Architect of record, which Harada House has never had. Director Nguyen will seek funding to proceed with the comprehensive house inspection report.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

3. Title and Legal Obligations Regarding the Harada House, City Landmark No. 23

Deputy City Attorney Anthony Beaumon reviewed the agenda report findings regarding Harada House. There are currently no restrictions or requirements for the Harada House being transferred as a gift to the City of Riverside. The Harada House is not an accessioned Museum object. It was questioned as to what steps would be required if the City demolish the Harada House; and there are at least 18 steps which would include reports to proceed, especially since listed as a City landmark. It was questioned if the City can transfer ownership of the Harada House to a non-profit or other third party, which would need City Council approval. Director Nguyen will provide a report on the resources that have been invested by the City of Riverside since the transfer at a future board meeting.

4. Discussion of Museum Board Roles and Responsibilities

Riverside Municipal Code 2.12.020, Items A through L were read aloud regarding the duties of the Metropolitan Museum Board.

5. Determine Whether Museum Board Member Absences for the April 12, 2017 Board Meeting Should be Recorded as Excused or Unexcused

The absences of Todd Carpenter and Dorothy Fadakar were motioned as excused.

Motion: C. Wilson

Second: R. Monge

Ayes: All

COMMITTEE REPORTS *(written reports are requested to be distributed for each Committee update)*

6. Naming Museum Spaces Ad Hoc Update- Board Members Hughes and Wilson will meet to refine the proposal.

7. Budget/ Development Committee- Board Member Carpenter met twice with Ann Lovell about the information provided in the Committee report. The first section reviews the general fund update and shortfalls. Section two overviews the Administrative and Facilities/ Operations division. The focus was on the facilities/ Operations division with the grant funding and expenses versus the administrative budget. Current Museum Budget items are underspent or on target. The City is currently on a two year budget cycle so June 2017 will be the mid budget review.

The Budget Engagement Commission (BEC) was formed when Measure Z passed. The purpose was for its 18 commissioners to review and advise on the City's budget. Chair Palacios gave his priorities for the Museum- a new Director and Harada House. He was asked questions about the hiring of the new director and the Harada House preservation/ restoration budget (Carl Carey of General Services estimated \$3-5million). Director Nguyen recommended that the Museum Board review the video feed from the May 4, 2017 BEC meeting online. Some items were approved at the May 9th City Council meeting and the remaining Measure Z items are on the agenda for the May 16th City Council meeting.

8. RMM Board Harada House Project Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday May 19th. Councilman Gardner has invited a local attorney specializing in creating foundations to speak.

9. RMM Collections Committee- no meeting was held.

10. RMM Exhibitions Committee- a meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

11. Riverside Museum Associates (RMA)- President Peggy Barnhart reported that the Annual RMA Dinner will be held May 11th. The business meeting begins at 5pm and the dinner event begins at 6:30pm. June 25th is the Annual Victorian Ice Cream Social at Heritage House. The Heritage House will then be closed for the summer season.

BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

12. Public Comment Period (see scanned speaker cards online)- comments were received from:

- 1.) Dave Barnhart regarding Harada House;
- 2.) Carol McDoniel regarding item 3: Title & Legal Obligations regarding Harada House;
- 3.) Michiko Yoshimura- Support of Harada House.

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

14. Items for future Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board consideration as requested by Board members. Director Nguyen will provide an update on the new director search timeline at the next board meeting.

15. Adjournment- the meeting adjourned at 5:12pm.