

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD MINUTES

June 14, 2017

Riverside Metropolitan Museum

3580 Mission Inn Avenue ~ Riverside, CA 92501

Board Present

Elio Palacios, Jr., Chair
Mary Hughes, Vice Chair
Holly Evans
Chuck Wilson
Todd Carpenter
Rose Monge

Museum Staff Present

Alexander Nguyen, Asst. City Mgr/ Acting Museum Director
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

Item 1. Minutes- May 10, 2017- The minutes were approved with the following corrections:

Update working title for references to Acting Director Nguyen, R. Monge did not leave early at 5pm (remove), Elio wanted to add clarifying verbiage for the hypothetical question asked as to required legal steps if a demo of Harada House was proposed (it is not a current view).

Motion: C. Wilson

Second: R. Monge

Ayes: All

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Palacios read aloud the oath taken by all Metropolitan Museum Board members.

REPORT ON MUSEUM OPERATIONS

Acting Director Nguyen introduced Lauren Sanchez, the Museum's newly assigned Deputy City Attorney.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Item 2. Need to shutter the Museum for three years to reorganize, re-tool and re-train staff, focus on the Harada House, begin full collections inventory, and plan and construct main building renovation and possible expansion.

Acting Director Nguyen presented the staff proposal to shutter the Museum for 3 years; reviewing what will occur during the shuttering (pages 2-3 of report), pointing out the main concerns from the 2016 American Alliance of Museums reaccreditation report (pages 4-5), and his concerns since becoming the Acting Director (page 16). The 29 Museum Management Consultant recommendations will be split into sections for further review by the Museum Board at future Board meetings. All Board meetings are noticed public meetings. Acting Director Nguyen stated that the Measure Z funding will be voted on by City Council on June 20th, the Museum Board will continue to be active if a closure occurs and Museum staff will remain busy with administrative duties, and the process for recruiting a replacement Museum Director has begun.

The Museum Board then opened the floor to public comments regarding item 2. Acting Director Nguyen provided clarifying statements in response to public comments received. Board members also asked a series of questions and commented on the staff's proposal.

Three motions were made to determine the Board's recommendation to City Council.

1st motion, made by C. Wilson, was to return the report to staff for more information and timelines. No second.

2nd motion was made by M. Hughes, to approve the temporary closure of the Museum for up to three years to reorganize, re-tool and re-train staff, focus on the Harada House, begin full collections inventory, and plan and construct main building renovation and possible expansion, and accept the report with the change from “3 years” to “up to 3 years”. H. Evans made the friendly amendment to change “shutter” to “temporary closure”.

Motion: M. Hughes Second: T. Carpenter

Votes: C. Wilson- NO T. Carpenter- YES

 R. Monge- NO M. Hughes- YES

 E. Palacios- NO H. Evans- YES

The motion was tied 3-3, and failed to carry.

3rd motion was made to reject the report as currently written.

Motion: C. Wilson Second: R. Monge

Votes: C. Wilson- YES M. Hughes- NO

 R. Monge- YES H. Evans- YES

 T. Carpenter- NO E. Palacios- YES

The motion carried with Yes- 4 and No- 2.

7:17pm- a 10 minute recess was taken with the meeting resuming at 7:27pm.

Item 3. Harada House Donations Acceptance

The donated funds date back to after purchase of the Robinson House and will be used for the structural assessment of Harada House.

A motion was made to approve acceptance of the Harada House Donations dated October 2014 to January 2017 in the amount of \$24,024; and increase revenues and appropriate expenditures in the amount of \$24,024 to the Harada House (account Number 5305000-450031).

Motion: C. Wilson

Second: T. Carpenter

Ayes: All

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

Item 4. Naming Museum Spaces Sub-Committee Update

C. Wilson and M. Hughes met and agreed that with the possibility of expansion and renovation of the current Museum facility that naming prices for specific spaces is premature since spaces may be different. A formal report will be submitted by C. Wilson at the August Board meeting. Acting Director Nguyen requested to include information for the Fox Theater naming as well.

A motion was held to move this agenda item to the August 2017 Museum Board meeting.

Motion: C. Wilson

Second: M. Hughes

Ayes: all

Item 5. RMM Board Harada House Project Committee

Committee Chair C. Wilson reported that the Committee is moving forward with establishing Foundation. Museum Curator Brenda Focht took an online poll via email to finalize the mission

statement of the foundation. The draft mission statement is currently pending review by the City Attorney. Proposed Harada House Foundation mission statement: *To promote, preserve, restore and maintain the National Historic Landmark Harada House as a symbol of the opportunities, protection of civil rights, promulgation of social justice and furtherance of equality guaranteed to those residing in the United States of America.*

The vote for the mission statement was 16 in favor, 8 against, and 3 abstain
The next Committee meeting will be June 23rd.

Item 6. RMM Collections Committee- no meeting was held. Acting Director Nguyen will bring the 2016 Acquisitions and 2016 RMM Collections Plan for review at an upcoming Museum Board meeting.

Item 7. RMM Exhibitions Committee- no meeting was held.

Item 8. Riverside Museum Associates (RMA)- President Peggy Barnhart reported that the RMA volunteers are ready to support the City Council's decision. A liaison from the Museum Board will be appointed at the June meeting for the RMA. June 25th will be the Annual Victorian Ice Cream Social at Heritage House. June 20th will be the Heritage House Docent Luncheon.

BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Item 9. Public Comment Period (see scanned speaker cards & audio online)- comments were received from the following individuals for agenda item #2:

Nicolette Rohr, Audrey Maier, Theresa Hanley, Frances Vasquez, Rosalind Sagara, Steve Lech, Barbara Burns, Kim Jarrell Johnson, Margie Akin, Kevin Akin, Vince Moses, Catherine Gudis, Cherstin Lyon, Jane Block, Mark Roeder, Walter Parks, Margaret (Peggy) Eby-Howe, Luz Negron, Connie Ransom, Scott Rugh, Becky Whatley, Eugene Moy, Stephen Marts, and Will Madrigal.

Additional letters to the Museum Board have been scanned and placed online for public viewing:
<https://riversideca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Item 10. Brief reports on conferences, seminars, and meetings attended by Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board Members- none at this time.

Item 11. Items for future Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board consideration as requested by Board members.

The July Museum Board agenda will feature an item on the Code of Ethics and Conduct review. Staff requested that the Museum Board members review the agenda report and come with their recommendations printed for the July meeting so they can be immediately forwarded to the Board of Ethics. The RMA Liaison will also be discussed at the June meeting.

Item 12. Adjournment- the meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.