

# METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BOARD MINUTES

January 11, 2017

## Present

Chuck Wilson, Chair  
Elio Palacios, Jr., Vice Chair  
Holly Evans  
Mary Hughes  
Bud Minton  
Dorothy Fadakar  
Rose Monge  
Jennifer Binkley

## 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  
Rina Gonzales, Deputy City Attorney

## Absent

Todd Carpenter

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:01p.m.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### **1. Minutes- December 14, 2016**

The minutes were approved as written.

Motion: E. Palacios

Second: D. Fadakar

Ayes: All except J. Binkley who abstained due to absence

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

C. Wilson distributed a handout with suggestions on generating income from donations for naming Museum spaces/ galleries. This item will be on the February Board agenda for discussion. It was also requested that all future Committee Reports be distributed as written reports to be added to the agenda/ record.

## REPORT ON MUSEUM OPERATIONS

The Nominating Committee has met and will give a formal report and vote at the February Board meeting. If any members are interested in Board Chair or Vice Chair, please see Elio, Holly or Mary.

A. Nguyen distributed the current Smithsonian Affiliates newsletter to the Board. He reported that Museum staff are conducting an analysis on the Smithsonian Affiliates membership and American Alliance of Museums accreditation benefits and if they are worth the cost. The Museum has hired the firm Museum Management Consultants (MMC) to conduct an assessment of the department. MMC will be conducting interviews with City Council, Boards, staff and others during the first part of February. It was requested to change the February meeting to accommodate the site visit by MMC. It was motioned to move the February 8<sup>th</sup> Museum Board meeting to 9am to allow for a Board discussion with MMC as part of the meeting.

### **2. Verbal summary of initial discussion with American Alliance of Museums (AAM) regarding reaccreditation**

Alex, Ann & Brenda participated in a telephone conversation with AAM representative Martha Sharma in regards to the November 1, 2016 decision letter to table the reaccreditation decision pending concerns. The report due to AAM in April 2017 will address the concerns cited in the AAM letter (dated November 2016) and the Museum's plan for progress to address those concerns. The Museum is able to write a letter to respond/ clarify areas on the report. The Museum does not need to address the items in the visiting committee report given. The final reaccreditation report from the Museum to AAM will demonstrate progress on the plan that was submitted in April 2017. The final report is due by the end of the year and will be reviewed by the AAM reaccreditation commission in February 2018. The Museum has hired the Museum Management Consultants to assess the entire Museum. Major concerns of the

AAM letter were the Harada House and the storage of Museum collections in the basement. The anthropology basket collection was also a concern in that the Museum exhibit and program around these artifacts as well as acknowledge their importance to the Museum's collection. Many conditions have dramatically improved since the Museum's last reaccreditation site visit over ten year ago such as a Rumsey Storage Facility, shelving for collections and improved environmental controls. The archives in the Museum basement will be moved once the City creates/ builds an archives facility for all City records. Museums are not often tabled unless the reviewing committee feels the institutions can accomplish progress towards the goal within a year. C. Wilson requested that the Museum Board review the response to AAM prior to it being submitted in April 2017.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS- no items at this time.

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

**3. RMM Board Harada House Project Committee-** Lynn Voorheis gave an update from the November 18, 2016 meeting where three sub-committees were established for preservation/ conservation, interpretation and fundraising. A marketing tag line was in progress and a brochure was being drafted to share the Harada family and their story. Three brochure ideas were shown at the meeting.

**4. RMM Exhibitions Committee-** Brenda Focht updated that the Exhibitions Committee has met over the past two days with their primary focus on the "Tlatilco" exhibit opening in October 2017. Many archival materials were donated by past Museum Curator of Anthropology Chris Moser and artifacts will be brought in on loan from the Smithsonian. The Tlatilco site in the Mexico Valley that is archeologically known for the ceramic figures and now currently covered by Mexico City. Core samples of some of the items were taken to verify if they were in fact from the Tlatilco area. There is one four inch figure that is 3,200 year old. The Museum is partnering with the Riverside Art Museum, Mission Inn Museum and UCR Museums on the Tlatilco exhibit.

**5. RMM Collections Committee –** C. Wilson requested that a discussion take place at the February Board meeting on the Board's official position for acceptance of additional Museum collections until inventory is complete.

A motion was made to accept the items proposed at the December 14, 2016 Collections Committee meetings.

Motion: E. Palacios

Second: H. Evans

Ayes: All

**6. Budget/ Development Committee-** C. Wilson suggested regular meetings to be held. Alex suggested quarterly after each quarter closes- so held in January, April, July and October. It was requested to add the Museum 2016-18 budget line item to the agenda at those times also.

**7. Riverside Museum Associates (RMA) –** Peggy Barnhart reported that any plans will be postponed until after the Museum Management Consultant review. The RMA will be providing copies of the RMA budget, bylaws and executive information for review.

BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

**8. Public Comment Period-** Ally Larsen and Jacob Porter were present at the meeting to fulfill school requirements. Becky Whatley spoke about the Kiwanis Club of Riverside and their donation of funds to the Riverside Art Museum for Longfellow Elementary students to attend art classes at the Riverside Art Museum.

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

**10. Items for future Riverside Metropolitan Museum Board consideration as requested by Board members.** Create agenda items to discuss donations for naming Museum spaces, Nominating Committee for Board Chair & Vice Chair positions, Board stance on acceptance of new collection items during inventory, and Todd Carpenter January 2017 absence motion.

**11. Absence Motion- December 16, 2016-** a unanimous motion passed to rule Todd Carpenter's December 2016 meeting as unexcused.

**12. Absence Motion- January 11, 2017-** Todd Carpenter was absent, the motion was postponed to the February 2017 Museum Board meeting.

**13. Adjournment-** the meeting adjourned at 5:18pm