

Ontario Museum of History & Art Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

President Chris Kueng called the Museum Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:03 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Kueng

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	President	Chris Kueng
	Board Members:	Rick Caughman, Randy del Turco, Shannon Gerstheimer
	Interim Museum Director	Cindy Cleary
	Council Liaison	Debra Dorst-Porada
	Museum Associate Liaison	Leslie Sherwood-James
	Staff	Leslie Matamoros, Helen McAlary
ABSENT:	Board Member	Jerry Weems

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2021 were approved by a 4-0 vote with a motion from Board Member Randy del Turco and second from Board Member Shannon Gerstheimer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON DORST-PORADA

Council Member Dorst-Porada reminded the board that an ordinance was passed where neighborhoods can petition to have no parking signs posted on the street to ensure street sweeping, thanked the board and staff for their hard work on the Arts Festival and encouraged more volunteering from commissioners in future events. She shared that first annual Christmas parade is December 3 at 6:30pm with the Tree Lighting after, Christmas on Euclid and Reindeer Run on December 11, and that on November 20 she will be with volunteers picking up magnolia seed pods along the Euclid median in preparation for installation of the the nativity scenes.

STAFF REPORTS

Directors Report

Executive Director Helen McAlary shared that the Museum, Arts & Culture Director has been hired and will be beginning on November 29, 2021. Executive Director McAlary continued to provide some background on Lindsay Benacka and shared that Interim Musuem Director Cindy Cleary will be available to stay to help Lindsay get acclimated.

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Interim Museum Director Cleary shared of the success of the Arts Festival which had between 1400-1500 attendees and 500 that walked through the Museum doors. The Festival planning committee met to debrief this week and will begin planning for next year's event in January. She continued with updates on the museum including the renovation which is on track to be completed by Mid-December, an update on accreditation submittals, and recruitment update for Museum Assistant. She reminded the board of the Holiday party on December 2 at 5pm, and provided an exhibit update including the closure of the Dia exhibit on 11/7 and the opening of *Tales of Pioneer Women: Her side of the story* which is a travelling exhibit and will also be accompanied by pieces of the museum collection. The exhibit will be up from December 2-January 16. She concluded stating that this is her last Board Meeting with the board and shared her appreciation for her time working with them.

Built on Water Design Update

Leslie Matamoros shared a presentation of the design for the Built on Water exhibit. The Board Members and the City Council Liaison asked questions, which Leslie provided answers for. Council Member Dorst-Porada suggested modernizing the exhibit because the exhibit feels in the past. Board Member Rick Caughman mentioned the Laredo Water Museum and suggested showing it to the design firm to see how we can modernize the exhibit and see what can be done with the floor to be interactive, such as ripples when you step. Leslie advised that this is why it was presented at this point feedback can be gathered to take back to the designers. President Kueng suggested incorporating a part of the exhibit about water being something we don't want to take for granted and how Ontario has water but we may not always, and that contemporary water wars are taking place elsewhere. Board Member Caughman suggested that the entry to the exhibit could be fun like two screens that show rain falling or waterfalls that you would see down the hallway and would attract you to the exhibit. Board Member Gerstheimer suggested that the lighting in the room be darker to make things pop, and added that water is very political and that things like that could be incorporated as a critical thinking component. Board member del Turco shared how important it is for people to leave understanding that we can't live without water, and pondering what can they do when they leave to preserve water. The board members agreed that the idea of people writing somewhere in the exhibit about what they will do when with this information when they leave.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of Code of Ethics

Interim Museum Director Cleary advised that the Code of Ethics which was previously reviewed and approved by the Board was submitted to the American Alliance of Museums and returned with one edit that needs to be reviewed. The edit was reviewed and approved on a 4-0 vote with a motion to approve from Board Member Caughman and a second from Board Member Gerstheimer.

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A conversation ensued with questions from the board about other museums and proper protocol for selling items, which were answered by Leslie. Board Member Gerstheimer asked if the word "transfer" could be made more clear in the document, which Cindy advised they would look into.

MUSEUM ASSOCIATES COMMENTS

Museum Associate Liaison Leslie Sherwood-James shared her excitement for seeing the Built on Water exhibit design, excited to be working with Lindsay, and shared that the Museum Store will be open this weekend.

MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

Board Member Gerstheimer shared that she attended Arts Festival and took her family to see the Gem of the Foothills exhibit, gave kudos to Matt Hickey for his work on the Festival, thanked Cindy for her leadership, and gave kudos to Leslie for her work on Built on Water.

Board Member del Turco is glad to hear of success from Arts Festival and that 500 people walked through the Museum, commented on the synergy of both museums, and thanked Leslie for her work on Built on Water. He asked a question about marketing the Built on Water exhibit to schools and Leslie responded, and concluded with sharing that the Dia exhibit was phenomenal and that he received good feedback at the festival on the exhibit from Festival attendees.

Board Member Caughman thanked Cindy for stepping in as Interim Director, thanked Leslie for hearing his suggestions, and shared his thoughts on the Arts Festival.

President Kueng thanked Cindy for her guidance during the transition, gave kudos to Leslie for being well prepared and gracefully taking suggestions, shared that he was blown away by the Arts Festival, and thanked staff for their hard work and dedication.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday November 23, 2021 at 6:00pm in Historic Council Chambers

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees Meeting was made by Board Member del Turco with a second by Board Member Caughman with a 4-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM

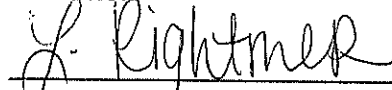
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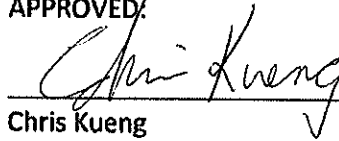
Submitted:



Lacey Rightmer

Senior Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

 11-26-2021

Chris Kueng

President