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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – December 18, 2014 – 4:00 p.m.
El Paso Museum of Art, Larry Francis Board Room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

CITY CLERK DEPT.
2015 MAR 16 AM 7:26

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Estrella Escobar		X
	Kenneth Gorski	X	
	Teresa Hernandez		X
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Daniel Longoria		X
	Steve Lujan	X	
	Marina Monsisvais	X	
	William Moody		X
	Analinda Moreno		X
	Susan Novick	X	
	Isela Ocegueda	X	
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez		X
	Ida Mae Steadman	X	
	Jane B. Thomas	X	

Consecutive absences: Daniel Longoria (7th), William Moody (1st), Carina Ramirez (1st).

Others present: Michael Tomor, George Maloof, Barbara Angus and Misty Castaneda.

2. **Call for Public Comment.** None.

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for November 20, 2014.** Chair began by allowing members time to review the minutes of the last meeting. Susan Novick motioned to approve. Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Museum Reports.** Michael Tomor began by mentioning two pre-symphony talks in conjunction with the Titovets exhibition that have occurred since our last meeting, along with two exhibition openings. There were no new openings in January and the second installation of the Guggenheim Modern Master Series will open on February 11th. The museum received a sponsorship donation of \$20,000 made toward the Guggenheim project, which successfully closes out the lease agreement cost for that project. Michael opened the floor for questions, there were none, and he concluded his report.

Barbara Angus gave the report for the History Museum, mentioning upcoming events such as a posada, a lecture in conjunction with the Roman Machines exhibit, a Russian New Year celebration and a workshop on making mosaics. There has been substantial work towards completion of the pavilion construction for the Digital Wall, scheduled to open in February. Barbara opened the floor for questions, there were none, and she concluded her report.

George Maloof gave the report for the Archaeology Museum, noting that attendance at the archery and atlatl demonstrations is steadily picking up, which required the event be moved to a larger space. Archaeology Museum personnel have met with Parks and Recreation regarding the master plan for the trails; the plan should be ready by mid-January, with a public meeting scheduled for late January in order to get commentary from stakeholders and the general public. George further mentioned that the Educator will begin on January 18th before opening the floor for questions. There were none, and he concluded his report.

5. Update on Capital Projects. Michael Tomor began by providing an update on behalf of Dionne Mack, who was unable to attend. The signature projects, including the children's museum, cultural center and the arena will have findings presented by HKS in a public meeting on Tuesday, January 6th from 6-9pm before being presented to City Council on January 7th. The consulting team will present a detailed final report including site options and financial feasibility information. The full restaurant concept at the Art Museum is 36% over-budget; Engineering and MCAD are re-evaluating the project scope. The Digital Wall Pavilion will have a soft opening on Saturday, February 7th, with a grand opening on Saturday, February 14th. The Pedestrian Pathway project, to include Arts Festival Plaza and the Durango Street underpass, is slated for completion in late February. Archaeology Museum upgrades planning is slated to begin in January 2015 with the completion of the Digital Wall project. General discussion followed.

6. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Acquisitions. Michael Tomor began by reminding members that there was hope to bring the Nancy Hamilton collection of retablos to the museum. Copies of the retablo list were available for members to view and features of the collection were highlighted in a PowerPoint presentation as the collection has arrived and is in the possession of the museum. Michael explained to members that "retablo" is the Spanish word for church altar-piece, which by the late 18th century had been widely used to describe small domestic religious images in the Spanish empire that were painted on tin or other metal sheets that were primarily used for private devotions. The almost 500-piece collection is fully inventoried and a full appraisal of the collection has recently been completed. The collection includes 381 unframed retablos, 29 framed retablos, 32 miscellaneous framed pieces, 9 miscellaneous items that are archaeological in relation to retablos, 2 bultos (hand carved wooden sculpture pieces) and 15 nichos. The museum will also receive every single record of the collection's inventory and history. Michael requested preliminary approval to accept the collection. Katherine Brennan so moved; Susan Novick seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Susan Novick so moved; Steve Lujan seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for February 19, 2015.

Approved for content by:
Ken Gorski, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

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2015 MAR 16 AM 7:26