

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM GOVERNING BOARD

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a meeting of the **Brown County Neville Public Museum Governing Board** was held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2006, at the Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place, Green Bay, Wisconsin

---

PRESENT: Bernie Erickson, Kevin Kuehn, Charlie Schrock

EXCUSED: Pat Evans, Kathy Johnson, Kramer Rock

ALSO

PRESENT: Gene Umberger, Jill Champeau

---



### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Kevin Kuehn called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Due to the lack of a quorum, there will be no voting action at this meeting. The following reports are for informational and discussion purposes only.

### UPDATE ON RE-ACCREDITATION

Charlie Schrock has read through all of the self-study re-accreditation documents he has received from Gene and Jill and he thinks it is coming along quite well. The multiple choice format does not allow us to embellish or elaborate on the things that are positive, so he and Gene talked about a way around that. Overall, he feels that we are right on track. There are still a few areas that need to be addressed, such as the development of a museum ethics policy. There is also a part of the financial section that needs to be completed by the Corporation. Charlie mentioned that there may be some topics that he and Gene may want to bring back to this board for consensus to fill in for gaps, especially in the area of planning and establishing some specific actions and timelines.

There is a wrap-up section (Section 10) that Gene has recently come across which will help to address Charlie's concern regarding the multiple choice format. Gene read the section's description, "In this Self-Study, you have provided details about your museum's operations. An accredited museum, however, is more than the sum of its parts. This section is an unstructured opportunity for your museum to tell us why your museum matters and what gives you the greatest pride. In one page or less, describe for the Commission why your museum is important, to whom it is important, and how it makes a difference." Gene does not want to start this section until he is sure we are in good shape with all the other sections and will bring it to this committee for final review.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The gift shop is closed, and as far as Gene knows, the Corporation is still looking at options.

The Corporation is hoping to fill the Development and Public Relations staff position by June.

There was some recent water damage in Collections storage on the third floor. Gene read a statement from the Curator of Collections. The water leakage was due primarily to too much humidity allowed to flow into the system due to a failed humidity valve and its fail safe back-up. Damaged artifacts include the dream drum and two ice saws that corroded. Nine additional items became wet but did not sustain permanent damage. The County's Risk/Safety Coordinator has been notified and full reports for the three damaged items will be submitted to him and he will file them with the insurance company. Facilities Management has been making repairs and it seems to be under control at this point.

Gene took part in a Corporation sponsored (sold-out) trip on April 4 to the Milwaukee Public Museum to see the "Treasures of the Vatican: The Legacy of the Popes" exhibit followed by a tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. It was a fantastic trip.

### Exhibits

"Do You Know Your Neighbors?: A Look at Immigration in Brown County" was here March 21-29. The committee that put it together was very pleased with how it turned out. This coincided with Cultural Diversity Week and Matt Welter, Curator of Education, set up a series of events for each day. On Thursday Gene and Matt will be going to a Leadership Summit on Diversity.

There is a new sculpture, *Babble*, by artist Ned Cain located in front of the museum. There was a two-week gap in the exhibition schedule in which there was no exhibit planned in any of the three changing exhibit galleries. Mr. Cain helped us out and created a sculpture exhibit to fill this gap. He provided all the manpower to bring in the works of art. We are extremely pleased with how it turned out.

*Among the Ho-Chunk People: Photographs by Tom Jones* is now open, and the 62<sup>nd</sup> Art Annual will be opening next weekend.

*Hometown Advantage: The Community and the Packers* is progressing. The large plasma TV arrived last week and Trevor Jones, Curator of History, will be working with Digital Design to work with four of the eight videos that were completed. The person producing the videos wants to have them all finished by the end of June. We are hoping to have this up and running sometime in May or June.

### Programs

The biennial Rock, Gem & Mineral show was held on the first weekend in April and was well attended. This year Gene was able to work it out so that the Walter Gallery on first floor, in addition to the meeting rooms, was open for the Geology Club to use for the show.

International Bay Fest is scheduled for June 10-11 (11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). We have met with the committee and their intent is to at least break even. If money is made, it will go back to support the NEW Arts Council. The Fest will take place across the street in Leicht Park, Dousman Street will be closed, and there will be events taking place in the museum's parking lot and inside. *Say Cheese! The Story of Wisconsin Cheese* exhibit which opens June 3 will tie in nicely. The Curator of History plans to have an FFA petting zoo, cheese-related crafts and cheese samples. A children's stage and a cultural stage will be in the museum's parking lot and the vendors and musical entertainers will be situated at Leicht's Park.

The Traveling Treadlers Fiber Arts Guild is scheduled to be at the museum on the first Wednesday and fourth Thursday of each month. They are paying for use of the facility and are also open to public. We have two new artists for the *Studio 210: Working Regional Artists* program during the summer months, starting in May through August.

### OTHER MATTERS

Supervisor Bernie Erickson asked about the status of the Children's Museum. The latest information we have heard is that there are plans for the Children's Museum to be part of the new development across the river. Our Discovery Room and Studio 210 are ways in which we have tried to address the need for more children's hands-on activities at the Neville.

Supervisor Erickson asked if we are planning anything to coincide with the Tall Ships event coming up in July. The museum is going to serve as the educational center for the team that is running the program. Gene is going to check with the Curator of Education to see if he has any related events planned as well.

Mr. Erickson asked if Brown County's Facilities Management maintains the museum. Gene replied that yes they do and we are charged back for their services.

Charlie Schrock asked if we track attendance, and if so, how are we doing? Gene reported that we do track attendance and are doing very well. The attendance was increasing more than gradually from the low point of 52,000 in 2001, increasing to 58,000 in 2002, and in 2003, we were up to about 78,000 (largely due to the success of the *Racecar: Science of Speed* exhibit). We expected a drop in attendance in 2004 because we went to admission fees, and only dropped down to around 68,000. In 2005, we were back up to about 77,000. This

Museum Governing Board

April 17, 2006

Page 3 of 3

year we are ahead of last year on a month-to-month basis. However, Gene pointed out that month-to-month comparisons are very misleading because of the various exhibit schedules. Kevin Kuehn believes that the attendance is a direct result of the money that is raised that is used to buy the exhibits to bring people in. If the NPM Corporation is tight on cash, we are limited to what we can do. He feels that the goal of this governing committee and museum is to make certain that we achieving historical preservation and providing education and exhibitions. Providing historical preservation and education is extremely important, but is never going to make any money, and it is difficult to put a measure on those types of things. We need to be gauging the support of the community, and our surveys are showing that we are on track in that direction. It is also important to look at what the museum has contributed to the quality of life of the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

***Next meeting scheduled for Monday, June 19, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Champeau

42