



Approved Minutes
Education Committee Meeting
3-East Conference Room
2500 West Broad Street

January 25, 2018
1:00 p.m.

Present: Mary Anna Broadbent, Kim Dye, Jacque Hale, Anne Peterson, Mary Ellen Pauli, Dr. Denise Walters, Patricia Nicoson

Staff Present: Rich Conti, Elizabeth Voelkel, Chuck English, Britt Thurman, Eugene Maurakis, Karen McKenzie, Jim Blow

Other Attendees: Cameron O’Brion, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General.

Mr. English called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m., followed by a roundtable introduction.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. English called for a motion to approve the October 19, 2017 minutes. Ms. Pauli made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Nicoson. Mr. English called for a vote, and the minutes were unanimously approved without objection.

Inspiration Index Update

Mr. English highlighted the following from the Inspiration Index:

- Recent Museum events have been extremely successful.
- Lunch Break Science presenters have included Jim Blow.
- The Governor and First Lady made fruitcake at the Museum.
- The MiX programming has been very well attended, up to 21 teens.
- The Forge pilot programming is ongoing.

Mr. English invited Dr. Maurakis to describe some of the work being done by the Experience Development Team.

Dr. Maurakis discussed the following:

- The Pollinator Garden was installed with help from community partners.
- The Forge design process with Roto has been completed.

- The Cosmic Climate Cookbook has been released for group visits and guest viewing.
- The Climate Connections lecture series will begin February 21st.
- Completed 6 videos and 3 audio programs for the NOAA Climate Resiliency Grant.

Mr. Conti remarked that Dr. Maurakis is deeply involved in all of the Museum's content, and complimented Dr. Maurakis on his excellent work.

Mr. English discussed the following:

- "Bringing Science to the Community" lectures presented by Dr. Hoffman.
- Dr. Hoffman has also been featured on several local TV news reports and is a key representative for STEM careers.

Mr. Conti remarked that Dr. Hoffman has been asked to speak at several important climate science events throughout the county, including at Virginia Tech, which allows the Museum to deliver its brand to a wider audience.

Mr. English told the committee that the Carpenter Science Theater will be going through some changes, as Larry Gard will be retiring at the end of March. Mr. English also discussed the Danville Science Center Out-of-School-Time (OST) STEM program, which had students answer the question, "What would extraterrestrial life look like?"

Outreach Changes

Mr. English discussed the following upcoming events:

- The Climate Connections Lecture series begins February 21st.
- The Boys and Girls club skateboard project was highly successful.
- Bike stands are now being fabricated for a Boys and Girls Club bike project.
- The skateboard and bike projects address the important need for transportation to the Museum's maker's programs.
- Library programming is continuing to grow.
- The partnership with Virginia Libraries continues to evolve.
- Planning is underway for future expansion of the Nature Backpack program.
- OST programming is focusing more on math this year at the request of Fallen Creek Middle School and other local schools.

Ms. Peterson suggested that funding for future transportation projects could be available through the Department of Transportation, and Ms. Pauli suggested that local companies like James River could also be a source for funding. Mr. English said that he is always looking for possible new sources of funding, and the success of this program is providing a model for other maker's spaces to follow. Currently the Museum is working with several bike shops and is shopping for a bike kit for the future bike project.

Ms. Nicoson asked how the Museum develops the programming with the schools. Mr. English replied that meetings with educators are held once per week to coordinate.

State STEM Coordinator & Museum Staff Changes

Mr. English discussed the history of the Virginia State STEM Coordinator positions which he has recently assumed in addition to being the Education Director, and explained the concepts that he would like to advance as the STEM Coordinator.

- STEM is a pedagogy in itself, and should not be “siloeed” in separate disciplines.
- The concept of STEM should be more consistently described across educational institutions. Currently it means different things to different people.
- The outstanding STEM programming located in isolated pockets must be shared to a wider audience.
- Focus on partnership with the community and other agencies.

Ms. Nicoson asked if this position was a state job. Mr. English replied that it is, and this position was well-placed at the Museum because of its neutral position amongst educational institutions.

Dr. Walters said that she would like to put Mr. English in touch with someone at the American Chemical Society who is working on an integrated approach to STEM education. Mr. English said he would appreciate that.

Mr. English remarked to the committee that Karen McKenzie is an excellent resource and urged the members to address any issues to her if he was not available.

Collections Report

Ms. Voelkel highlighted the following.

- The F-14 Tomcat from the Virginia Aviation Museum has been successfully transferred to the Museum of Flight in Rome, GA.
- The only remaining aircraft at the Virginia Aviation Museum is the A-7 Corsair is being transferred to the Virginia Museum of Transportation.
- Model Railroad allowed the Museum to display historic train station items.
- Broad Street Station turns 100 years old next January 6th.
- Planning for the 100th Anniversary event are ongoing.

Ms. Pauli asked Ms. Voelkel where the Museum got the Virginia-shaped cake mold for the Governor’s Fruitcake. Ms. Voelkel replied that the mold was made in house over two days by Les McLane from food grade silicone. Ms. Pauli asked if it is possible to keep more of the historic train station items on permanent display. Ms. Voelkel responded that the Museum takes every opportunity to display these artifacts in open storage in the galleries as space conditions permit.

Collections Policy Update and Approval

Ms. Voelkel stated that the Collections Management Policy is vital to the Museum's critical responsibility to provide stewardship of the objects in its care. She added that the policy updates were necessary after the closure of the Virginia Aviation Museum. Ms. Voelkel pointed out the following changes to the existing policy:

- The Virginia Aviation Museum has been removed.
- Day to day care of the collection at the DSC is now the responsibility of the Education Coordinator from the Executive Director.
- Other changes include updates to existing forms.

Ms. Voelkel requested a motion to accept the changes to the Collections Management Policy and send it to the full Board of Trustees for approval.

Mr. English asked if there were any questions. Ms. Nicoson asked if the policy is in the Code of Virginia. Ms. Voelkel replied that it technically was, but the Museum's mission and vision feeds the policy, and changes to the policy do not negate the Code.

Ms. Pauli asked if the deaccessioned items had been removed from the building. Ms. Voelkel replied that contract review with an auction house is underway.

Ms. Pauli asked who the Museum's Collections Manager is. Ms. Voelkel replied that Summer Pearce is the Collections Manager, and complimented Ms. Pearce's meticulous care of the Museum's artifacts.

With no further questions, Mr. English requested the motion which was put forward by Ms. Nicoson and seconded by Ms. Hale. Mr. English called for a vote which passed unanimously without objection.

Mr. English then introduced Ms. Thurman as the Museum's new Community Partner Liaison.

Minds of All Kinds

Ms. Thurman discussed the following:

- Development of the Museum's Science Within Reach program.
- Creating community partnerships to expand access to community members with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Partnerships include Commonwealth Autism and the Autism Society of Central Virginia
- The Curiosity Guide was developed as a result of these partnerships.
- Sensory-friendly Minds of All Kinds events occur every quarter.
- Minds of All Kinds evenings now include sensory activities such as sensory bags and "calm-down bottles."

- Sensory friendly art and music activities are being planned.

Ms. Nicoson asked if there was a specific age range for Minds of All Kinds. Ms. Thurman replied that there is not, it is open to anyone who can benefit from this type of experience; but the Museum is working on a comprehensive survey to get better demographic data.

Ms. Broadbent remarked that in her experience teaching children on the autism spectrum that events like Minds of All Kinds were very sought after by parents, and thanked Ms. Thurman for her work in this area.

Ms. Dye asked how these events were being advertised. Ms. Thurman said that the events were being advertised through partner agencies that have existing client lists. Ms. Dye suggested that since these are low volume events that they might appeal to populations with other developmental disabilities. Ms. Thurman responded that the Museum is always open to new ideas. Ms. Nicoson asked if this could work for people with dementia or older populations. Dr. Walters suggested that someone from Pfizer could come in and consult on this matter. Ms. Thurman replied that is being looked into, but it is important to make sure the events do not become too crowded. Mr. English said that he would appreciate some more information, and an expansion into new populations would require more than just the Education Team.

Upcoming Events

Ms. McKenzie discussed the following:

- Night Light Science: Space Night event for early learners on January 26th.
- Scout Camp-In February 9th & 10th.
- Girls In Science Camp-In awaiting funding.

Adjournment

There being no further new business, Mr. English requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Dye made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Broadbent. The motion carried without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.