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| **Operations Board Meeting****February 1, 2022**1200 West 35th St, River Level | Chicago Maritime Museum |

**Date and Time**

Start: 12:01 PM

End: 1:30 PM

**Attendance**

Dylan Hoffmann, Gerald Thomas, Jim Jarecki, Patrick McBriarty, Mary Ann O’Rourke, Daisy Morey

**Action Items**

**Agenda**

1. Approval of January 4, 2022, Minutes
2. Operations Chair Report
	1. Continue now with phase 2 of Exhibit Plans—need date for meeting with Valerie
	2. Proposed Focus will be on three exhibits:

                                                                  i.      Bill Pinkney Exhibit

                                                                ii.      Exhibit along the River

                                                              iii.      Underwater exhibit

* 1. Action Item list for today
1. Collections: Dylan
	1. Policy updates
	2. Collection updates
2. Communication Committee Report—Mary Ann
	1. Newsletter
3. 3rd Fridays—Jim
	1. upcoming speakers will be discussed
4. Membership
5. Store
6. Old Business
7. New Business

**Minutes**

**Approval of January 4, 2022, Minutes**

Mary Ann O’Rourke moved to approve the January minutes as distributed. The motion was duly seconded and approved. *January minutes are ready for posting.*

**Operations Chair Report**

**Phase 2 of Exhibit Plans**

Jerry asked the members of the committee who attended the meeting yesterday to provide feedback and comments on the meeting. Jim Jarecki commented that the meeting was a good overview of topics but felt there was the need to have more thorough discussions for each exhibit. Kath Thomas didn’t like the “magical escapes” copy and felt it did a disservice to Ralph Frese to focus exclusively on recreational canoeing but was excited about Valerie’s work on the Lady Elgin.

Jim Jarecki and Kath Thomas discussed the potential donation of the artifacts from the Lady Elgin. The meeting with Harry Zych’s estate and an attorney from the Lady Elgin Foundation is planned for mid-February 2022, where they will make a final decision about donating the Lady Elgin artifacts to CMM or not. Jim Jarecki noted that while it is not a done deal, the other relevant museums who could take the artifacts have declined Harry’s offer to **sell** them the artifacts in the past, as well as for ethical reasons due to the controversy, and would be likely to decline if offered again. Jim Jarecki stated confidence in accepting the artifacts, despite controversy, due to the decision of the Illinois Supreme Court.

**Ralph Frese Exhibit**

Jerry responded to Kath’s concerns over “magical escapes” by reviewing the decisions made in the meeting that changed the direction of the Ralph Frese exhibit and the Bill Pinkney exhibit to focus less on recreation and more on **education** and **diversity**. Valerie intends to change the name of the exhibit to fit the new exhibit goals and requested that we all work on thinking of a new title.

The focus of the Ralph Frese exhibit will now include Ralph’s work on education, recognizing the technological innovations made by indigenous populations, and recognizing the environmental efforts made by past and current indigenous populations to transition the exhibit to the exhibit along the water. Dylan felt our artifact collection limits our ability to tell the story about indigenous contributions that we are looking to tell. Jim, Daisy, Dylan, and Mary Ann suggested reaching out to indigenous activists, groups, and museums to collaborate on creating the story.

The CMM should reach out to:

* American Indian Center of Chicago
* Eli Suzukovich III, at the Field Museum
* Isle a la Cache Museum

Further information for these potential collaborators is attached in the appendix.

Jim Jarecki noted the importance of considering outreach to Chicago’s indigenous population as not being limited to just this story, but that we should be making an ongoing commitment. He also suggested having a meeting to identify the right people to talk to.

Jerry Thomas brought up the recordings that Ralph Frese did for about 30 canoes, which Tom Kastle has agreed to work on cleaning up, which could become a focal point of the exhibit if the quality is good enough with the cleaned up versions.

Kath Thomas and Mary Ann argued that we should have a meeting internally before meeting with Valerie to nail down the content, history, and story itself, as well as meeting with contacts, and then meet with Valerie to hand over the content for her to do design work. Jerry agreed but recognized the importance of keeping Valerie in the loop so that her design can develop as our content does.

Mary Ann asked for a more intentional process regarding the exhibit copy, making sure that the museum has a consensus on the story, then the historians write the copy, before it becomes available for Valerie to edit into an exhibit.

Patrick requested access to the Ralph Frese audio to begin the process of writing. Dylan agreed to send the rough audio and transcripts to all committee members. Consensus was that anyone can review the audio since we don’t know now who the correct people to listen to it are, but that historians should have authority over what to do with the content.

Jerry expressed concern over time frame and proposed setting a plan for a meeting within the next two weeks with historians and contacts.

**Bill Pinkney Exhibit**

Jerry restated that the main story of the Bill Pinkney exhibit is his work with school kids. He recommended that everyone watch the Bill Pinkney video produced by Disney on YouTube since it clearly communicates the story we want to tell, though we’d need to re-do the Bill Cosby narration before making it a part of the exhibit.

Jerry then brought up Bill Pinkney’s plan to get Bill’s new children’s book to the publisher by the end of the month. Jerry suggested that Bill Pinkney do one of his planned book signings at the museum.

**Exhibit along the River**

Jerry reviewed Valerie’s plan to set up the exhibit as eight problems and their solutions with interactives for each of the eight stations. He said its mostly done and doesn’t expect us to need another meeting on this one.

Mary Ann requested Valerie send her and Kath all the copy before it goes up.

**Underwater Exhibit**

Jerry reviewed Valerie’s proposal for an additional underwater exhibit in addition to the Lady Elgin, and his discussion with Captain Dave after the meeting to clarify his request. Captain Dave felt that the first underwater exhibit should be very attention-grabbing and impressive, which the Lady Elgin exhibit would be. Once this has been done, additional exhibits might be appropriate.

Mary Ann noted that if the Lady Elgin exhibit can’t be done, then we would indeed look for another notable underwater exhibit in its place.

**Action Items**

**Building Updates** – Dylan was frustrated with the window vendor, since every time he’s contacted them, he’s gotten the same response that “the parts have been ordered,” but there is still no progress being made.

There are no updates on the sewage smell in the utility room.

Valerie has not delivered the updated Eastland exhibit, the deadline for which was last week. Jerry planned to ask her about it.

Jerry and Sarah have not made progress on the donor board yet. Captain Dave has made the note that the names were too small on the plaques, but that the plaques were the right size.

**HVAC** – Trigg has talked to vendors but there is no further progress yet.

**Brochure –** Mary Ann and Daisy updated the committee on a meeting held by the communications committee regarding new marketing materials. The decision was to not make full trifold brochures, as the new exhibits will make them obsolete too quickly, but to focus on bookmarks that would act like the postcards we still have. The back of the postcard would have relevant museum info and a QR code to learn about membership, while the front would have four different designs per run, which can be easily switched out. This would encourage collecting and highlight popular artifacts, new exhibits, and seasonal occasions such as the Rouse Simmons for Christmas or Jun Fujita for AAPI Heritage Month.

**Collections: Dylan**

Dylan reported that he is almost done cataloguing the south storage collection into Past Perfect, which will allow for easy access to artifact information.

**Collection Updates –**

Jim Jarecki moved to accept the Great Lakes map donation. The motion was duly seconded and passed.

Mary Ann asked for update on the Edgewater collection. Dylan stated that there was a lot of content, but there is no real design or aesthetic value to the exhibit, which would give us a lot of freedom but additionally require a fair amount of effort. Jerry said that our limited budget means that any money required to put up the exhibit would require thought.

Mary Ann requested that we defer deciding until next month.

**Communications Committee Report – Mary Ann**

**Newsletter –** Mary Ann reported that she has finished the copy but needs to make two corrections, which have been sent to Daisy. She requested the zoom registration link for the February third Friday. Following the meeting, the newsletter was sent out on 2/3/2022.

One of the articles this month is on Venetian Night. Mary Ann suggested we have a boat in Venetian Night this year.

**3rd Fridays – Jim Jarecki**

**Joel Stone** is the upcoming speaker for February. He is the curator emeritus at the Detroit Historical Society and will talk about his book *Floating Palaces,* about the evolution of passenger steamers.

He agreed to do this with the stipulation that we have him speak again in-person when we are able to do so.

**Lifesaving Stations** is still planned for December.

**Membership – Daisy**

Daisy reviewed January’s membership numbers: 6 renewing members, 5 new members (3 from Third Friday), and no cancelled memberships.

She said the process of using email to send reminders about membership is working okay for the lower tier memberships but suggested the need for a system for higher tier donations. She and Jerry suggested that each higher-tier donor be assigned a contact at CMM which will be added to the membership database. When their membership is close to lapsing, Daisy will send a reminder to their CMM contact, who will give them a personal phone call – not to ask for money, but just to talk to them about what they’re up to, what the museum is up, etc. A plan needs to be made for assigning contacts.

**Store**

Jerry said that we have a good process in place for inventory and tracking cash.

**Old Business**

Moment of silence for Don Glasell.

Eight bells for Don Glasell.

**New Business**

No new business to discuss.

Meeting Adjourned at: 1:30PM

Submitted by Daisy Morey

**Appendix:**

Links to discussion items

Bill Pinkney video with Disney and Bill Cosby

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HreyEIoEXCw>

American Indian Center of Chicago

<https://aicchicago.org>

Eli Suzukovich III

<https://cnair.northwestern.edu/our-community/center-affiliates/eli-suzukovich-iii.html>

Isle a la Cache Museum

<https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/preserves-trails/preserves/isle-a-la-cache>