



APPROVED Minutes
Education Committee Meeting
RF&P Railroad Company Forum
2500 West Broad Street

April 21st, 2022
1:00 p.m.

Present: Dr. Denise Walters, Dr. Rodney Berry, John Benton, Patricia Nicoson, Elsa Falls, Gina Burgin, Fran Bradford, Lauren Mathena, Alex Kurland, Surendra Ganeriwala, Steve Holdych

Staff Present: Timshel Purdum, Rich Conti, Elizabeth Iglehart, Jim Blow

Other Attendees: Cynthia Norwood, Office of the Attorney General

Ms. Purdum called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Welcome and Overview of Inspiration Index

Ms. Purdum discussed the following:

- *Skin: Living Armor, Evolving Identity* is now open, the committee will tour the exhibit at the close of the meeting.
- Groups, private school field trips, more digital demos, and in person demonstrations are continuing to return.
- Summer camp completely sold out within about 25 minutes of registration going live on the site.
- Ten percent of campers are able to attend due to scholarships.
- Summer camp programming is almost complete.
- There is a renewed focus on outreach to key community partners.
- Offsite programming will be a key part of outreach.
- Staff members are scheduled to visit a local bilingual book fair next week.
- The goal is to conduct four large outreach events per year.
- Bees are returning to the EcoLab, with opening planned for May 6th.
- The Education Team is currently adding new staff members.
- The Museum has extended offers to candidates for the 8 paid summer internships, all but one have accepted.

- An additional goal is to bring back birthday parties, homeschool programming, and other education programming that was halted due to the pandemic.

Ms. Bradford asked what the limiting factors are to hosting larger numbers of guests at the summer camps. Ms. Purdum replied that the space and capacity limits of the building are the main barrier to larger camp numbers.

Ms. Falls asked about the scholarship opportunities for summer campers. Ms. Purdum shared that slots were set aside and Museums for All members were encouraged to apply. A lottery system was used to determine which of the applicants would receive the scholarships. Ms. Burgin asked how many slots were allotted for Museums for All members. Ms. Purdum replied that 4 slots were set aside per week..

Mr. Ganeriwala asked about camp guest ages. Ms. Purdum replied that campers are aged 6 to 12.

Mr. Benton asked about the cost of the camp. Ms. Purdum confirmed that camp costs \$300 per camper per week. Members save \$50.

Mr. Benton asked for more details on the paid internships being offered this summer. Ms. Purdum replied that interns working in an education capacity must be over 18 and in college.

Collections Report

Ms. Iglehart discussed the following:

- The Museum has updated the collections management policy
- Currently the Museum is undergoing the American Alliance of Museums re-accreditation self study process.
- The collections management policy is one of the core documents that must be provided as part of the re-accreditation process.
- A peer reviewer committee will perform a site visit as a part of the process, tentatively planned for July or August of 2022.
- Two main changes have been made to the collections management policy.
- First, the Womack collection at the Danville Science Center was deaccessioned in January of 2019 and has been removed from the policy.
- Second, the policy now states that the Museum will follow industry best practices for expending realized proceeds from the disposal of objects at public auction.

Ms. Bradford asked for an overview of the Womack collection. Ms. Iglehart replied that the collection consisted of over 1300 pieces of taxidermy and natural history artifacts. Many of the specimens are in a degraded condition or not museum quality, and therefore not suitable for display. As a part of the Museum

strategic planning process, it was determined that retaining the Womack collection was not consistent with the Danville Science Center's mission and the collection was deaccessioned with the consent of the Board of Trustees in 2019.

Dr. Berry asked for a motion to approve updated collections policy and present it to the full Board this afternoon. Dr. Walters made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Falls. Dr. Berry called for a vote which passed unanimously without objection.

Dr. Berry asked for a motion to approve the January 20, 2022 meeting minutes. Ms. Falls made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Walters. Dr. Berry called for a vote which passed unanimously without objection.

New Business

Dr. Berry asked for any new business with nothing heard.

Adjournment

With no further business Dr. Berry asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Walters made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Falls. Dr. Berry called for a vote which passed unanimously without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

The Education Committee will meet again on June 16, 2022 at 1 p.m.