

Angels Camp Museum Commission Minutes February 16, 2017

Commissioners present: Bob Hillis, Ron Rivera, Tad Folendorf, Joe Oliveira, Bob Petithomme, Anne Forrest, Marilyn Smith

Commissioners absent: None.

Others in attendance: Kim Arth, Angels Camp Museum Director, Karen Strand – Museum Foundation chairman

Public in attendance: None

Call to order at 8:30 AM by Commission Chairman, Ron Rivera

Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented

Approval of January 19, 2017 Minutes: Tad made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Bob Hillis. The minutes were approved with Anne and Ron abstaining because they were not at the meeting.

Reports:

Education Committee Meeting - Joe Oliveira: Joe discussed the details of the meeting and I have included the details of the meeting below.

Note January 27th, 2017

In attendance: Kim Arth, Bob Hillis, Jim Miller, and Joe Oliveira

We had a reasonably long discussion around digital options for the museum in light of difficulties in recruiting docents. We ended with Kim's advice to pursue this cautiously with regard to concerns over timing and obsolescence. The recruitment of docents will continue with a focus on docents in costume. Jim Miller will explore options for this approach under the heading "*New Living History Program*" modeled after the program in Columbia State Park and possibly appealing to the acting community (e.g., SRT)

Bob Hillis will write a script for the print shop with the idea that at some future date, a video recording could be made of Bob explaining the evolution of printing and its importance in communications in the 19th century etc....

Joe Oliveira will write a similar script for the Carriage House outlining the evolution of transportation as displayed through our exhibits.

Jim raised the idea of a fiberglass donkey, horse, or horses to add a little realism to our transportation exhibits by displaying how tack was arranged. Everyone thought that was great idea. Funding?

Museum Foundation Report - Karen Strand, Foundation President: Karen said Lee Croletto said we have 90 active members. She said that Lee send out renewal letters the month before they are due and Lee has updated the letter to include information about the lectures. Karen said they are working on getting sponsorships for some of the wagons and Kathy Dodge is heading up this effort. Karen said Gina Milani is developing a grant to pay for the preservation of the collections. She said Jackie Hash is working with the master gardeners to develop signs for the plants that are the museum area. It was also said that the logging wagons have different purposes so signs are needed to define how each was used.

Collections Committee – Bob Petithomme: Bob Petithomme said he would forward his notes on the photos (**received Bob's note but no mention of this**). Anne said she had talked to a retired professor who had some picture frames that might be donated to the museum. After a discussion, it was determined that these would not be needed. The collection committee note follow:

Notes 1-19-17

Committee Members:

- *Bob Petithomme
- *Tad Folendorf
- *Bob Hillis
- * Members present

Old business from December 12-15-16 meeting

1. Salvation Army photo: we have not received a copy of the photo so no action taken.
2. Donation of Devegio wagon from Dennis Aufdenkamp: Accept
3. Carley Collection: Tad reported that he has been in contact with the Carley family and will set-up a meeting the next time they are in the area
4. NSGW Stage Coach loan: The 5-year loan agreement is up this month and Kim will contact the Native Sons and request a renewal of the loan.
5. Three Logging wagons in carriage house: Last month the committee voted to contact the Arnold Logging Museum to see if they would be interested in displaying, in their museum, one of our museums three large logging wagons. The contact was made and they said they would consider the offer. In the meantime, the Collections Committee decided to keep the wagons. Bob Petithomme contacted the Logging Museum and John Hofstetter, Museum Director, reported that after considering the offer they felt that they did not have the facilities to properly display the wagon but thanked us for the consideration.
6. Hauschildt Water Wagon on loan: Kim will contact Hauschildt and see if they would consider gifting the wagon and not, invite them to come to the museum to review the loan.
7. Amish Buggy: Kim will contact the owners of the buggy to get more information on the history of the buggy and report back to this committee for further discussion.

New Business

1. Dick Terry donated a very old leather covered veterinary remedies and treatment hand book that belonged to his grandfather, John Terry, that dates back to the early 1900's. The committee voted to accept the donation for future display in the carriage house.
2. Maps of a portion of the Gold Mines in our area were donated by U. C. Santa Cruz. The maps were accepted and Kim will see if our county Archived would like to have them.

Museum Updates – Kim Arth, Museum Director: Kim notes are below:

Angels Camp Museum awarded 'Best of the Mother Lode 2017 - Best Art Gallery in Tri-County.'

- Angels Camp Museum proudly served 8,203 people in 2016, an 18% increase from 2015 in the number of people served.
- **This Community Museum's visitor comment book asks where people are coming from and how did they hear about us. Compiled data from the past year's answers to these questions, reveal that museum visitors come from 43 different states and 18 different countries.**
- **How visitors are learning about the museum: (1) WorldMark, (2) drive by/sign, (3) internet/website, (4) family/friend recommendation, (5) publicity such as advertisement, brochure, flyer, etc.**

- The Museum's Facebook page averages 8 new 'likes' per month.
- 2016 visitor data shows that Mondays and Thursdays are the Museum's busiest days; followed by Saturdays, Wednesdays, Sundays then Fridays. Data also shows that the top five busiest months at the Museum in order are: May, March, July, June, and April. Note: Open Wednesdays began on March 1, 2016 - it was our fourth busiest day of the week - bringing 1,309 visitors to the museum.
 - Five Star TripAdvisor review written by a visitor from Rockwall, Texas: "From the street, this museum looks somewhat small, but... there are additional buildings & grounds to see! We (daughter & I) visited in Jan 2017 & had a great time! The front building is only a small portion of the museum grounds - there are 2 much larger buildings as well as some things to see on the grounds. Also, the front building has a 'basement' area you can visit which houses some old artifacts from the early days of Angels Camp. ... There are lots of photos and mining equipment, as well as old cars and carriages. You can pan for gold (small add'l fee) and wander around as long as you please. Overall, a very informative (& fun!) stop which I highly recommend! It definitely made me appreciate what the miners went through, and how life was back in the gold rush days; it also gave me more appreciation of the town and buildings there when we left the museum to browse around 'downtown' Angels Camp."
- Many thanks to Monica Wood for donating \$1,050 towards the Carriage House pergola.
- Three more wagon sponsored interpretive signs have been installed in the Carriage House. The Governess Car (sponsored by Foothill Goddesses 2016), the Bain Mountain Wagon (sponsored by Bob and Clelia Petithomme), and the Pony Cart (sponsored by the Christian Family Learning Center).
- Legal counsel Elizabeth Perez was able to negotiate a deal for the museum with the distributor Covertech to replace 27 rolls of defective insulation in the Carriage House (product for product total value \$5,663). Twenty-seven rolls of the replacement r-foil insulation was received on June 15, 2016 (at no cost to the City). Legal counsel recommended funding the project at the full estimated cost of \$34,000. Furthermore, the Museum Director and the Contractor from High Country Builders, Inc. negotiated an additional \$4,200 less off the estimated cost of labor installation. City Manager McHatten presented a budget amendment for \$29,995 for this project to City Council on November 1, 2016 and the project was approved. **Update: The museum insulation project was completed on February 17. The Carriage House will be open the week of February 20 once all the wagons and displays are moved back into place and the gallery is safe for the public.**
- Five counties of museums will gather on March 21 at the Tuolumne County Historical Society & Museum for the Historical Museum Alliance's biannual meeting. The Alliance aspires to collaborate and encourage the exchange of ideas to enhance our regional museums.

LOOK AHEAD

- Lecture scheduled on March 5 by Lindy Miller for Women's History Month. Lindy will speak about the "Sole Trader Act."
- Living History Day on March 11. History comes alive on the second Saturday of March, April and May as docents demonstrate their craft in the artisan's exhibits, including carpentry, print shop and weaving.
- Guided tour by docents on March 29 for 50 6th grade students from Jenny Lind Elementary.
- Lecture scheduled on April 2 by Jeff Olsen who will speak about the "History of the Angels Theatre and Movies Filmed in the Gold Country."
- Living History Day on April 8. History comes alive on the second Saturday of April and May as docents demonstrate their craft in the artisan's exhibits, including carpentry, print shop and weaving.
- Guided tour by docents on April 11 for 50 6th grade students from Jenny Lind Elementary.
- The Museum will be closed for Easter on April 16.
- Museum outreach booth at the Resource Connection's annual Children's Fair at Bret Harte Union High School on April 29.

New Business

Review and discuss training on the regulations of the Brown Act: Ron asked if there were any questions that developed in reading the Brown Act information in the binder. Ron said that he had heard there was a brief discussion on having 4 members of the collections committee. In reviewing this it was determined that this is in violation of the Brown Act. It was determined that training would be needed on this and Ron will pursue how we can get this done.

Set date for the volunteer appreciation dinner in April: Kim asked if April 28th would work and Ron said he couldn't be there on that date. She asked about April 21st and it looked like most everyone could make that. It will be on that Friday at the carriage house from 5:00PM to 7:00PM. Kim again reminded everyone that they should be filling out their log sheets because these are used to convey to the city how much work is being done by museum volunteers.

At the end of the meeting: view in the Carriage House - Kim: Kim took the group to the carriage house to see where the project stood and said that they expect to finish the work by next week. All the commission members except Tad who had to leave were very pleased to see the great improvement. Kim said she expected the work to finish next week.

Commissioner Reports

Your Activities this past month:

Bob Petithomme said he has been working with a group that will be bringing 25 antique cars totaling about 60 people to the museum in April. He asked about getting a press release for this and one will be developed.

Tad, Anne, Marilyn, and Ron said they had nothing to report.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Next meeting March 16, 2016 at 8:30AM in Museum Conference Room