

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Arcadia Commons Campus

**Kalamazoo Valley Museum**

Advisory Team

5:30 PM

July 16, 2019

*Present: Baker, Deitrick, Johnson, Laabs, McElhone*

*Absent: Baskerville-Jones, Hollins, Jbara, Larson, Stinson*

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Acceptance of the Agenda
2. Acceptance of the Minutes – January 8, 2019
3. Informational Updates
  - 3.1 Strategic Planning Update
    - Strategic Plan approved November 12, 2018, by Dr. Washington.
    - Shared five Strategic Plan Initiatives.
    - We are looking at all areas of the KVM's operations for opportunities for improvement.
    - Accessibility is physical and intellectual access to KVM resources.
  - Attendance was not met for FY19. This is the first full year without any influence from Dinosaurs exhibit.
  - Web numbers continue to grow. The way visits are measured keeps changing.
  - American Chemical Society had a symposium and dedicated a historic marker for steroid work at Upjohn during the 1950s on May 16 and 17.
  - Growlers Baseball STEM events in May and June allowed us to present science opportunities to area kids.
  - New exhibits focus on bees: Bee Market, Children's exhibit to teach kids the importance of bees and pollination; Bill met with Jordan Sparks to talk about bees.
  - Patty of the Kalamazoo Watershed Authority collected surveys for the DEQ about our Rain Garden.
  - Juneteenth was coordinated by Yolonda Lavender. It was a unique blend of art, music, dance, vendors and drew between 200 and 300 people.
  - WGVU Sensory-Friendly Family Fun Day was June 22. They drew about 300 people. We are moving away from Sensory Saturday events to include sensory opportunities every day.
  - Cody Cook and Bill participated in Together Is Better Summit, giving demos on electricity, history and future plans of the KVM. All employees of KVCC are invited.
  - Foodways Symposium on middle-eastern food was successful in conjunction with the culinary campus. Next year will focus on a plant-based diet.
  - Storytelling was a hit.
  - Fretboard Festival went well.

- Breanna Bowyer, Yesenia Guerrero are new staff; Matt Gibson, LaRue Russell have left employment.
- Sensory Saturdays was a successful series with programs/info for autistic children/families. We discovered that our approach was not best policy for autistic patrons and are changing programming.
- Fountain of the Pioneers was torn down last spring. We are looking to bring at least one piece of the sculpture back to the KVM to interpret it. Any exhibit would be 5 years out, and planning is still in the works.
- Rain Garden is a new outdoor exhibit. We now have signs up to interpret the gardens. Pavers capture 100% of all the rain and retain it to keep the gardens watered.
- Previous exhibits: Math Moves, Kalamazoo Wings, What We Carried.
- Open now: Secrets of Bees, artwork by Ladislav Hanka, displays by William Westrate, Amusement Park Science.
- Future exhibits: Patient No More, Ripley's Amazing Micro Sculptures, XOXO, Wicked Plants.
- Mary Jane Stryker Theater Proposed Ramped Access presented. We are looking to pursue this next year.
- Proposal for Limited Access VIP Entrance on the north side of the building is not funded but will be considered.
- Collections Storage on 4<sup>th</sup> floor was redone, broken motors removed.
- Front desk was torn out and replaced, reworking first floor gallery. New desk is closer to front door and friendlier.
- New entrance graphics on wall behind front desk were just installed.
- MAT new member recruitment will begin soon. Bill is looking for suggestions and names for new members. Bill is waiting to hear back from a history student at WMU. Our staff could also identify frequent visitors who would be able to contribute.

#### 4. Advisor Discussion

- Are there plans for collaborations with upcoming exhibits like Wicked Plants?
  - We will be bringing the author of the original book, and the topic should draw interest.
- What are the everyday accommodations for autistic patrons and how do people know about them?
  - We have ear protection, sensory kit, rocking chairs, etc. We will keep working with organizations that advertise these opportunities. It is on our website as well.
- In regards to the discussion on the recruitment of new Museum Advisory Team members, people might attend more if they were able to access the building better. Jaye will look at opportunities for members who can bring this perspective. Hispanic community should also have representation. Potential members and/or guests could sit in on a meeting.

5. Next Meeting – Oct 1, 2019 @ 5:30 PM (Future Meetings – January 7, April 14)

6. Adjournment