

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for July 23, 2018

Present: Polly Barton, Aisha Basith, Emily Cahill, Amanda Campbell, Abbey Cook, Grant Day, Laura Gleissner, Rebecca Herz, Geoff Kammerer, Jay Scholl, Joshua Smith, Christa Spates-Bell and Janā Stevens

Absent: Christina Dean, Colleen DiGiallonardo, and Arun Karumanchi

Minutes prepared by Dori Beaupre

Review of Minutes: June minutes were approved with no corrections.

Fossils Rock Presentation: Sharon and Peter Exley, exhibit designers from Architecture Is Fun in Chicago, shared their progress on the new Fossils Rock exhibit. Their design centers around a time machine in which children can pretend to go back in time and re-enter the exhibit to explore a specific time period. Fixed displays will showcase spectacular and valuable objects from the fossil collection including life-sized replicas of dinosaur skulls. The sand table will be filled with fossils which children can dig out of kinetic sand. Costumes and props will be located nearby for children to fully get into character. "Curiosity boxes" filled with fossils and fossil-replicas, minerals, images and information will help children compare, sort, and classify.

Educational content is currently being developed and the exhibit design sketch will be refined for another presentation in two months with a projected opening date of June 2019. In the meantime, monetary and in-kind fundraising will continue, and prototype designs will be made to test at the PlayHouse.

Director's Report:

- Artist Reenie Charriere is visiting from San Francisco to create art from plastic bags on the PlayHouse porch. Children and families can help create a "Magic Carpet" original art installation through August 3rd.
- Board members who toured the Children's Discovery Museum in Normal shared their experiences. The facility is much larger and contains several exhibits geared toward older children. The museum also included quiet spaces for guests with noise sensitivities, an outdoor classroom and beautiful garden space. The group enjoyed the museum's open art room for children to create and display their work at any time.
- The next Advisory Board meeting will need to be held off-site as the PlayHouse will be closed for maintenance and exhibit repairs. Please let Rebecca know if you would like to host the meeting at your organization. Otherwise, the meeting will be at the Noble Center.

Park District Report: Emily Cahill mentioned the Peoria Journal Star article regarding social equity in the Park District. The Park District wants everyone to be able to access high quality parks and recreation activities regardless of income. A new streamlined, district-wide scholarship program will be launching in the fall. One application will give access to almost any program in the Playbook for one year from the time of approval.

Board Chair Report:

- Geoff Kammerer shared his background and reason for joining the PlayHouse Advisory Board. He is currently employed at RLI, but Geoff is a Michigan native who met his wife while attending Notre Dame. The couple moved to Washington D.C. before settling in Peoria in 2005. They now have three children ages 12, 10, and 4. Geoff joined the board because not only did he want to get more involved in the community, but because he believes the PlayHouse is highly important to community development.
- Breakfast with the Director is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9 from 7:30-9am at the PlayHouse. Invitations will be sent the first week in September to approximately 100 of our top donors and prospects. Rebecca will give a behind the scenes PlayHouse tour and update guests on current PlayHouse happenings. This is a cultivation event – no asks will be made! If you have colleagues or friends who are interested in learning more about the PlayHouse, please email their contact information to Dori Beaupre, Development Coordinator, at dbeaupre@peoriaparks.org no later than the next meeting.
- Joshua Smith reminded board members that making an annual contribution is an expectation stated in the Advisory Board Manual. Upcoming opportunities to give include Fossils Rock and “Be Anything!”

Events Committee: The committee will develop a list of “Be Anything!” needs for board members by the next meeting. A volunteer lead/recruiter is still needed for both the preview event on September 23rd and the live event on September 28th.

Nominating Committee: Nomination requests for 4-5 openings are now being accepted. A form must be filled out by the nominator and returned to Abbey Cook no later than the September 24th Advisory Board meeting.

The nominating committee, development committee, and communications committee could still use more members. If you have any nominees in mind, please let Abbey know.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business. Strategic planning will be discussed next month.

Formal Adjournment: 1:00pm

The next Advisory Board meeting is Monday, August 27 from 12:00pm-1:00pm.