

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for September 24, 2018

Present: Aisha Basith, Emily Cahill, Abbey Cook, Grant Day, Christina Dean, Laura Gleissner, Rebecca Herz, Geoff Kammerer, Arun Karumanchi, Jay Scholl, Joshua Smith, Christa Spates-Bell and Janā Stevens

Absent: Polly Barton, Amanda Campbell, and Colleen DiGiallonardo

Minutes prepared by Dori Beaupre

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

Director's Report:

- The PlayHouse will be awarded a "Community Contribution Award" by Peoria Public Schools this evening at the school board meeting for our partnership serving all Peoria Public Schools 3rd grade students. Thanks to the Illinois State & Energy & Innovation Foundation (ISEIF) the PlayHouse is engaging approximately 900 students in learning about electricity through "Spotlight: Electric" field trips.
- Two new "drop-in" programs have been added to the PlayHouse's offerings in addition to Tot Time. Animal Encounters is on Fridays from 10-10:30am and free with admission. Yoga for Kids occurs Mondays from 10-10:30am and is \$2.50 per child with admission to the PlayHouse.
- Breakfast with the Director is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9 from 7:30-9am at the PlayHouse. Rebecca will give a behind the scenes PlayHouse tour and update guests on current PlayHouse happenings.
- The PlayHouse kicked off a 5-session exploration of play facilitation this month, aimed at both our front line staff and partner teachers and community members. Sessions are the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 3-5pm, September 2018 – January 2019, at the PlayHouse. Contact Rebecca if any board members would like to attend a session. The first session focused on experimentation and reflection, setting the stage for learning and incorporating ideas from 4 disciplines:
 - October 9 - Play Facilitation (presented by Meredith Messina)
 - November 13 - Montessori, speaker to be confirmed
 - December 11 – Improvisation and Theater Education, Jen Brown and panel (Winston Salem, North Carolina)
 - January 8 - Playwork, Megan Dickerson / New Children's Museum (San Diego) panel

Park District Report: A reduction in both local and state tax revenue is causing the Park District to make budget cuts and focus on high-impact programs that collaborate and utilize existing services. No closures are being proposed, but the Park District is seeking additional revenue sources.

Board Chair Report: Board members reviewed a new design proposal from Architecture is Fun for Fossils Rock. Any suggested edits are due by October 1.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Advisory board members conducted a S.W.O.T. analysis for Goal 3 of the strategic plan focusing on robust visitor attendance.

Events Committee: Be Anything is this Friday, September 28 at the Trailside Event Center. The list of volunteer duties was passed around as a reminder. An additional \$15,000 grant from the Ruby K. Worner Trust through PNC was received for Fossils Rock. Please consider making a contribution at the event toward this new exhibit.

Nominating Committee: Nomination requests for 4-5 openings are due in one week. Candidates will be presented at the October board meeting and voted on in November. Openings are slated to be filled by January 1.

Communications Committee: The committee is trying to determine people's motivation to check out the PlayHouse website. The committee would like to invite Central State Media to future meetings.

Development Committee: Committee members identified prospects for monthly sponsorship. The committee is seeking input from the Executive Director of Kids Discovery Museum in Washington State at their meeting in November. Any other board members are invited to attend. Committee members are also still needed.

Formal Adjournment: 1:03pm

The next Advisory Board meeting is Monday, October 22 from 12:00pm-1:00pm.