

Volunteer Advisory Council (VAC) Meeting

Tuesday, 21 May 2019

Board Room

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Officers Present

Heather Duchow	Chairperson
Jean Drzyzgula	Vice Chairperson
Dave Price	Secretary

Council Members Present

Jean Bennett	Collections
Jim Boehlke	Living History
Thad Grudzien	Naturalist
Sara Langton	BHTM
Steve Murray	Birds of Prey
Siobhan Sullivan	Newsletter
Marge Trayser	Admissions

Staff Present

Kelsey Ward	Assistant Curator of Education
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1. The VAC meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 2 pm in the board room.
2. Staff Reports:
 - a. Volunteer Coordinator—Shannon Campbell was unable to attend the VAC meeting. Heather passed on some notes from Shannon. The next *Common Core* training session will be on 4 June starting at 9:00 am. An *Emergency Preparedness* class will be held the same day beginning at 11:15 am. Finally, hiring of seasonal employees is on-going.
 - b. Assistant Curator of Education—Kelsey said the education team was very busy with numerous school groups visiting the museum throughout the week. Thursdays and Fridays are particularly hectic with an average of 200 to 300 students visiting the museum on each of those days. The education team has two special gallery guides that help with student control. Gallery guides who would like to work with the education team can contact members of the education staff. Kelsey is also leading a once-a-week after-school program at Cascade Middle School. That program is working on Oregon spotted frog conservation and related environmental projects. It includes regular field trip to site along the Deschutes River. This is the second year for *the Survive the Oregon Trail* adventure course at the museum. Currently, 10 teams have signed up to participate. The event will be held on 31 May.
3. Old Business: There was no old business brought up at the meeting.
4. New Business and New Ideas: Heather reminded everyone that it is time to nominate new VAC officers. In September, Jean Drzyzgula will become the VAC Chairperson. Prior to that time, a new vice Chairperson and secretary need to be elected. Volunteers for those positions are encouraged to contact Heather or Shannon Campbell. In the meantime, Heather will discuss possible candidates

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with Shannon. Since there is no VAC meeting planned for August, new officers will need to be elected at the July VAC meeting.

5. Team Lead Reports:

- a. Collections—Jean Bennett said the new Collections Manager, Sarah Baylinson, is now in place. The collections team will be manning a booth at the *Archeology Roadshow* on 8 June at the Deschutes County Historical Society in Bend. Also, the teepee at the entrance to the BHTM exhibit has now been cleaned and conserved.
- b. Naturalist—Thad said there has been a lot of interest in the *Nature Walk* recently. On *Senior Day*, there were 45 visitors who participated the *Nature Walk*. Also, the team now has a portable microphone to use on the walk.
- c. Living History—Jim announced that living history team will begin manning the *Miller Ranch* daily, starting next week. The team had a living history training session recently. After the session, living history guides who give the daily *Spirit of the West Tour* have each identified a tour theme for their presentation and have now limited their delivery to 20 minutes.
- d. Newsletter—Siobhan reported that all is well with the newsletter team.
- e. BHTM—Sara said everyone on the BHTM team was very happy with the clean and restored teepee display at the entrance to the BHTM exhibit.
- f. Admissions—Marge announced the museum's new summer schedule starts this weekend. Also, the museum had 624 visitors on *Senior Day*. The *Bird World* lecture program is scheduled on 22 May. So far, there are 77 people signed up to attend. The *Bad Lands Music* performance is scheduled for 30 May. The *Raptors of the Desert Sky* program begins on Memorial Day and will continue through the Labor Day weekend.
- g. Birds of Prey—Steve said the staff now has its fifth full-time wildlife specialist on board. The team also has several summer hires and interns who will be starting work at the museum soon. The team is currently focused on getting ready for the *Raptors of the Desert Sky* program. The program will be presented daily at 11:30 am. Also, several members of the team have been working on the *Raptors of the Desert Sky* bird blinds cover. A new fence is in place between the museum's outdoor public space and the outback animal enclosures. Some new landscaping has also been done in that area as well. Finally, work on the new mews is on-going.
- h. Silver Sage Store—Heather reported that the museum store has a number of new books and new T-shirts for sale.
- i. Gallery Attendants—Heather reported that Shannon Campbell and Jean Noosinow are planning a gallery guide training session on 28 May from 10:00 am to noon.
- j. Photography—Heather said the wildlife photography workshop on 27 April went well. Also, the team has several new volunteer photographers. In addition, the team is currently working to improve evening photography using LED lights which are still being adjusted for best advantage.

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- k. Desertarium—Jean Drzyzgula said the museum will begin presenting its daily *High Desert Reptile Encounter* when the summer program starts. The program will use two tortoises and two king snakes that have successfully completed target and station training. Also, the museum has a new western pond turtle. It arrived with some injuries but is recovering nicely.
7. Something Nice to Say about Someone or Something:
- a. Sara wanted to recognize Laura Ferguson and Christina Cid for arranging to have the teepee cleaned, and Jean Bennett for finding the couple who did the work.
 - b. Sara also wanted to thank Dustin Cockerham for installing a sturdy metal guardrail around the teepee display.
 - c. Steve wanted to recognize Cathy Lang and her staff for always being friendly with café guests.
 - d. Heather wanted to thank Jon Nelson and other members of the wildlife team for helping to make the wildlife photography workshop a success.
8. Reminder:
- a. The next VAC meeting will be on Tuesday/18 June at 2 pm in the board room.
 - b. Dave notified Heather that he would not be able to attend the June VAC meeting.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Dave Price
VAC Secretary