



City of Lebanon
Historic Museum Ad Hoc Committee
Minutes – August 23, 2018

Committee Members: Mayor Paul Aziz, Library Director Kendra Antila, Jami Cate, Allen Collins and Thonni Morikawa

Staff Members: City Manager Gary Marks and Administrative Assistant Donna Trippett

Call to Order: 2:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room

Attendance: Linda Ziedrich and Wayne Rieskamp were absent.

Adoption of June 28, 2018 Minutes:

There were two corrections to the minutes:

1. Under Guest Speakers, "...Terry, who is well-informed about Indian history; and Tony, who is knowledgeable about native American dwellings..." should be changed to "...and Tony Forque, who is knowledgeable about native American history..."
2. Under Resources, it should read "Morikawa shared that the American Association of State and Local History and the Oregon Museum Association are good resources."

Cate moved, Morikawa second, to adopt the June 28, 2018 Minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

- *Museum Visits* – The committee spoke about differences between the Brownsville and Sweet Home museums. The County was, and continues to be, very instrumental in helping the Brownsville museum to succeed. Whereas, Sweet Home receives no County help. Items were also displayed differently. There was discussion about Lebanon incorporating some features of both with a more modern approach. Emphasis should be more on quality versus quantity (for example, standalone items to showcase them). Inventory should be rotating and not static. Videos will give it a more modern feel and can tell stories.

The Brownsville museum is not getting the visitation it used to because of the change in demographics. The focus should be on families and children. Living history is a great way to get people involved and could include bread baking or community gardening. To keep children's interest, interactive displays should be scattered throughout the museum. Stories and displays should be relevant to the visitor. Incorporating a venue or meeting hall could also supplement income and generate traffic and interest. A survey can be used to find residents with interesting oral histories. Questions could include: how long have you lived in Lebanon? How many Strawberry Festivals have you been to? Did you work at the mill?

It was pointed out that a benefit to opening a museum late in the game is that the story of what was substantial in this town's history would be more fluid. Lebanon's museum should be about its industries and growth up to the present time. Morikawa recommended attending an Oregon Historical Society's event to get an idea of what audiences want. It was suggested that a vision for the museum be discussed at the next meeting. It was also suggested that the committee speak with someone from the Benton County Historical Society about the new museum being built in Corvallis.

- *Organizational Planning* – Aziz stated that he and Marks met with the City Attorney who suggested that the committee first get a CPA to handle finances. Aziz will work on finding a CPA and getting started with the 501(c)(3) process and articles of incorporation. Everyone agreed to be part of a working board (of possibly seven members) for the first year or two. Morikawa stated that she would like to help with training for accessions/software use. There was a brief discussion about the benefits (such as public perception) of becoming an official organization.

Morikawa agreed to work on a policy that specifies collections (for example, Strawberry festival or founding family-associated). Cate suggested highlighting key areas that have contributed to Lebanon's success (saw mill and logging eras). Items should be connected to a prominent industry with a viable connection to Lebanon. Morikawa also agreed to work on a deed of gift document. She stated that we may have to take everything with the understanding that we have full rights to do what we want with the items (in case of deaccessioning).

There was discussion about the museum having an online presence at first. This would generate interest and bring in memberships. Movies can be shown; we would have rights to most over 72 years old since they would have fallen out of copyright. Lebanon Express also has many articles that would generate interest and revive history.

- *Community Input* – Donations can be received after forming a Board and finding a storage location.
- *Fundraising* – The Committee will do no active fundraising but if a donation is received, the City can temporarily hold the funds.

Public Comments

Pete Boucot invited the committee to tour Scroggins Mill and hear what they have to offer. He will provide the Mayor with his schedule. A Doodle Poll for a mid-September date will be sent out. Morikawa stated that she is only available on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Next Meeting:

The Albany Regional Museum tour will take place on September 26 at 1:00 p.m. September's meeting will be scheduled after sending out a Doodle Poll.

Adjournment: 2:40 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by Donna Trippett]