

Florence Griswold Museum
Minutes of the 73rd Annual Meeting
Friday, June 7, 2019
Adrian P. Moore Garden Terrace

President David Dangremond welcomed the members of the Florence Griswold Museum to the 73rd Annual Meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes of the 72nd Annual Meeting on June 1, 2018.

Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Andy Baxter remarked that being the Museum's treasurer was not a challenging job because of its long history of financial stability and effective planning and oversight. He reported that the 2018 revenue was almost identical to 2017, but fell short of the budgeted revenue by 5%. This was due to gifts being directed to *the Fund for Excellence* as opposed to the general fund. Expenses in 2018 were right on budget with a few variations causing the Museum to end the year with a modest deficit of \$128k.

The approved budget for 2019 is almost identical to 2018's. However, the collections and exhibitions line item increased by almost \$100k but will be offset by a reduction of salaries as there would not be an overlap of Directors and there was no Director of Development for the first quarter of the year.

Treasurer Baxter closed by mentioning that the Museum had completed its audit and received an unqualified opinion with compliments to the staff.

Report of the Investment Committee

Co-chair Robert Webster stated the Museum was in good shape in regard to its investments even though 2018 was a challenging year in the market. The Museum's investments totaled slightly over \$19M as of the end of April. He then announced the Museum's plan to reduce the amount of the yearly draw from 5% to 4.5% over five years, putting the Museum in a stronger financial position for the future. He thanked the members for their generosity.

Business Partner Awards

Development Chair Jeff Cooley recognized the businesses that have made Leadership Level gifts which allow for many Museum programs and exhibitions to continue:

- All Pro Automotive & the Graybill Family
- Bank of America
- Bee & Thistle Inn
- Benchmark Wealth Management
- Bouvier Insurance
- Centerbrook Architects & Planners
- Connecticut Cottages & Gardens
- Forks & Fingers Catering

- Guilford Savings Bank
- Hitchcock Printing
- The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company
- Imagineers, LLC
- Infiltrator Water Technologies
- Pasta Vita
- Pfizer
- Reynolds' Garage & Marine
- Venu Contemporary Culture Magazine
- Wilber & King Nurseries
- WSHU Public Radio Group

He requested that everyone present support these businesses as they help the Museum.

Report of the Director

Director Becky Beaulieu welcomed everyone to the 2019 Annual Meeting and opening of *Fragile Earth: The Naturalist Impulse in Contemporary Art*. She thanked all the members for their support and goodwill as she and her husband settled into the area. She is honored to serve as the Director of an organization that is so loved by its community.

She reported on the past year's exhibition program that provided a wealth of programming from a variety of perspectives and served a multitude of interests including *The Great Americans: Portraits by Jac Lahav* and *Fragile Earth: The Naturalist Impulse in Contemporary Art* which included work in the Griswold House by Jennifer Angus (the first official Artist-in-Residence of the Museum). Director Beaulieu congratulated the curatorial team for the truly remarkable exhibitions and thanked the exhibitions' sponsors. She encouraged members to get a sneak peek of the Artists' Trails. Director Beaulieu reported that the previous year welcomed just over 15,000 visitors to Wee Faerie Village and had the highest attended Christmastime Teas season on record. She then unveiled the new quarterly newsletter and events calendar, *On View*, as well as the newly reformatted Annual Report.

Director Beaulieu took a moment to recognize staff and their vital contribution to the Museum. She asked for staff members Julie Garvin Riggs, Ted Gaffney, Randy Robinson, Matt Greene, and Tammi Flynn to join her. She then mentioned that each celebrated an anniversary. Julie joined the Museum a decade ago, and now oversees the expansive outreach programming as Manager of Youth Education and Outreach. The Museum welcomed three essential staff members in 2004: Ted, Director of Facilities; Randy, Groundskeeper; and Matt, who was recently promoted to Director of Visitor Services. And a special thank you was given to Tammi Flynn, Director of Marketing, who has been leading the Museum's marketing and promotion efforts for twenty years. The staff members were thanked and applauded for their longstanding commitment.

Director Beaulieu closed her report by thanking the members for their role in helping the Museum become what it is. She promised that the Members, Board, and Staff will continue to activate the natural, historic, and artistic resources to ensure the bright future of the Florence Griswold Museum.

Report of the President

President Dangremond stated what a privilege it is to serve as President in partnership with Director Beaulieu during a year with such exciting and visible changes. He also noted that 2018 marked the 40th anniversary of receiving accreditation from AAM (American Alliance of Museums) and that the Museum was among the very first museums in America to receive accreditation. President Dangremond announced that Director Beaulieu had been asked to serve a four-year term on the Accreditation Commission, the highest-level review board of AAM. She will be one of nine members and the only one from New England, a great credit to her and an honor to the Museum.

He then thanked the major annual support members, individuals, corporations, and foundations that make the Museum's work possible. And he extended his thanks for the imaginative and visionary staff and tireless volunteers who oversee, develop, and interpret the Museum's landscape, collection, and programs. He looks forward to the year ahead of working together, sustaining this momentum, and always maintaining the highest standards of the museum profession.

Report of the Committee on Trustees

Chair Carolyn Wakeman thanked the Committee on Trustees for their work throughout the year. She also thanked the four Term Trustees completing their service – Diane Embree, Monique Forster, Charles Hinckley, and Kathy Parsons. She presented the slate of officers and trustees proposed for 2019-20:

Officers (for one-year terms)

David W. Dangremond, President
John Noyes, Vice President
Jane Rapport, Vice President
Deborah Butler, Secretary
Andy Baxter, Treasurer
Lee Pritchard, Assistant Treasurer
James W. Carey, Counsel

Term Trustees (for three-year terms from 2019-2022)

First term:

Susan Cartledge
Barbara Harms
Robert Wilber

Second term:

Andrea Inglis

Charter Trustees (for three-year terms from 2019-2022)

Jeffrey Cooley
Robert Webster

Honorary Trustees

Kathryn Parsons

Committee Chair Wakeman gave brief biographies of the new Trustees. Susan Cartledge is an active leader in Madison, is chairing the Museum's Benefit Committee, and also serves on the Garden Luncheon and Membership Committees. Barbara Harms moved to Old Saybrook four years ago and has quickly become an active and generous supporter of the Museum. She is a master gardener and serves on the Garden Luncheon Committee. Rob Wilber is a former Trustee who joins the Board again after remaining active in the Museum as a member of the Buildings & Grounds Committee and Advisory Council. A motion to approve the proposed 2019-20 Slate was made, seconded, and approved.

President Dangremond asked for a moment of reflection to honor the passing of two Museum friends – Steve Percy, husband of longtime Trustee Marilyn Percy and a great advocate for the institution, and Bill Phillips, who selflessly served as a Trustee for 27 years and on several committees and was the inspiring founders of the Lieutenant River Society. A moment of reflection was observed.

President Dangremond then thanked those Trustees who have reached milestones in their service to the Museum – 10 years for Assistant Treasure Lee Pritchard, 20 years for Charter Trustee Charlie Clark, 20 years for Honorary Trustee Samuel "Spike" Thorne, 25 years for Honorary Trustee Marilyn Percy, and 30 years for Charter Trustee Jeff Cooley. Special recognition was given to Past President George Willauer for his 40 years of service, the Museum's longest-serving Trustee.

Report of the Bylaws Committee

Bylaws Chair Jim Carey presented a proposed change to the Museum's Bylaws that would allow for Committees and the Board to approve items between meetings:

VOTING (OUTSIDE OF MEETINGS)

Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board, Executive Board, or any Committee, standing or ad hoc, may be taken without a meeting if a majority of Trustees of their respective Boards or Committees consent thereto. The action must be evidenced by one or more written consents describing the issue presented, action taken, and response signed by each Trustee in one form or counterparts. A consent reached in this manner has the same force and effect of a meeting vote, may be described as such in any document and shall be filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Board.

The proposed change would be included in "Article X Quorum". A motion to approve the presented change to the Bylaws was made, seconded, and approved.

Other Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Adjournment

Dangremond concluded the meeting by inviting members and guests to enjoy the opening of the *Fragile Earth* exhibition in the galleries and reception on the veranda. A motion to adjourn the 73rd Annual Meeting at 6:23 pm was made, seconded, and approved.