

**Joplin Historical and Mineral Museum Advisory Board
February 16, 2023 (Starting at 3:30 pm)
Location: Joplin Museum (504 Schifferdecker)**

A meeting of the Joplin Historical and Mineral Museum Advisory Board was held at the Joplin Museum (504 Schifferdecker) on the 16th day of February 2023, at 3:30 pm pursuant to the posted notice.

Meeting Called to Order:

Bob Harrington as Chair of the Joplin Historical and Mineral Museum Advisory Board opened the meeting.

Advisory Board Members Attendance:

Advisory Board members present at the meeting were:

Chris Wiseman*, Bob Harrington, Kyle Denham, Nancy Messick, Paula Callahan, Chad Stebbins and Brad Belk

Advisory Board members absent at the meeting were:

Patrick Tuttle*, Paul Bloomberg*, and Mark Farnham*

*Non-Voting Members

Minutes: No minutes read due to lack of regular meetings.

Financials: On the front of each month's summary, there is a breakdown of income.

Old Business:

Chris Wiseman handed out to each Advisory Board Member summary sheets of what had been going on at the Museum during 2022 running through January 2023. Chris then hi-lighted items off of these summary sheets and shared with Advisory Board Members.

1. Spiva Park Clean-up was held with Parks, Joplin Historical Society, and Cragin Family.
2. Cataloging mineral collection into the new software package entitled "Past Perfect" has begun.
3. Cox Hall's lights are now all LED bulbs.
4. Liberty removed dead trees out front and new native trees have been planted.
5. Chris sent Stacey, Jacey, and Christine to Fayetteville, AR to look at other museums and how they do their exhibits.
6. Historical Society purchased a new refrigerator for the kitchen off of Cox's Hall.
7. Historical Society purchased new aluminum display cases (6 to 7).
8. Fire Department Exhibit has been finished.
9. Bonnie and Clyde Exhibit has been updated.
10. Historical Society has DE accessed the Barbara Jean Bunbury Doll Collection. Part of the collection went to a Doll Museum in Kansas City, one lady came and bought the entire paper doll collection, other items of the collection are at a flea market.
11. Liberty installed new street lights in front of the Museum.
12. A new roof has been put on the mineral side of the Museum but there are still leaks in the kitchen.

13. Strategic Plan with PGAV has begun with museum stakeholders. General feeling from PGAV is that the Museum does a good job with the resources we have but we need to have more resources.
14. Museum is hosting a Landmark Lego Project.
15. Working on QR codes to history wing and also for mineral wing.
16. All the main lights in the Museum have been switched to LED. Paul Bloomberg has asked the City Financial Person to check on how this reduces our electric bill. Track lights are the only lights not LED at this time and they draw a small current.
17. Museum received a floor cleaning machine that cleans excellently. It is brand new from Memorial Hall.
18. A local artist, Woodward, did a painting that was finally obtained for the Museum from U.S. Bank. It was hung by the Parks Department in the space in Cox's Hall that use to hold the Newman Building Stained Glass Window. The painting is from the Keystone Hotel.
19. As part of revamping of "floating" mineral displays, all have been numbered and labeled.
20. Prairie Reclamation Project has been started on the front side of the Museum. Conservation Department is working on planting only native grasses, native shrubs, and wildflowers. This will be an educational experience. Everything that has been done has been free. Iris beds were pulled up prior to the Prairie Reclamation Project and totally taken to one of the Joplin parks by the Parks Department.
21. The Museum has reestablished some iris bulbs from Mercy Park.
22. Jacey Vangel graduated from MSSU and has begun a job as archive specialist for the Peoria Tribe.
23. In the Museum basement, the Parks Department set up all the furniture shelving from the Power's Museum. Then the rolling shelves were installed by the Parks Department in basement.
24. The doctor's office display has been packed up and placed in storage from the history wing. The exhibit space has not been determined as to what will be placed in it.
25. The mineral "pyramid" displays have been numbered, identified and labeled.
26. There is a Museum Assistant Position being advertised and interviews begin Tuesday, February 21. This is a part-time position. As soon as someone is hired, that person will be introduced to the Advisory Board.

New Business:

Public Service Announcements have tremendously increased the awareness of all that is being hosted at the Museum. We had 1,500 individuals attend the Rock and Mineral Show over a 3-day period. The PSA's cost \$75.00 for each setup but that is inexpensive for the number of individuals that attend.

Nancy Messick asked about e-mails being sent out ahead of events happening at the Museum. It is difficult to share information with the public as an Advisory Board Member if you only know what most have already seen on a Public Service Announcement. Nancy also asked to know who was on the Historical Society and wondered if minutes from their meetings could be sent to the Advisory Board. Paula Callahan is going to put all the Advisory Board Members on the e-mail distribution for the Historical Society Meeting Minutes.

Chris then told the Advisory Board that the Historical Society would be hosting a speaker in March that will be talking about Gabby Street. He has many collections to share concerning Gabby Street. There will be a reception following his talk with refreshments.

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Nancy asked about why the Advisory Board is not made aware of what the Historical Society is doing with items in the Museum before the decision has been made and the job is done. Chris explained that the Historical Society Board is the fund-raising board and with that caveat the Historical Society Board can spend the money that was raised on what they want to. The Advisory Board is supposed to make Chris Wiseman aware of problems with him not running the Museum correctly.

Brad Belk spoke concerning the DE accessing of any collections in the Museum. He indicated that the Advisory Board should be made aware of any collection or part of collection that is to be DE accessed. He also indicated that the Historical Society owns the collections and could literally sell every item and artifact that is on display. Those funds do not go to the City but to the Historical Society.

Nancy indicated her disappointment that she was not involved in the Jean Bunbury Doll Collection when it was going to be DE accessed but Nancy was needed when it arrived to unbox every piece and make contacts even with one of the appraisers on the "Antique Road Show" that specialized in dolls.

This brought up another discussion. Chris is looking at DE accessing the old News Herald collection of the Museum to MSSU if that is possible for Southern. If not, this collection will be destroyed.

The Presidential Collection given by the Boss's has been DE accessed. Brad asked what the revenue was from the Presidential Collection and Paula Callahan plus Chris indicated approximately \$2,000. Some of the items are still at a flea market.

Nancy indicated she has a misunderstanding maybe of the role of the Advisory Board versus the Historical Society Board. Chad Stebbins told Nancy that the Historical Society Board are the "worker bees" while the Advisory Board meets quarterly. Paula explained to the Advisory Board that when a collection is DE accessed not one of the Historical Society Board members can sell anything individually but they can hire someone to sell items. They can then go buy an item. Kyle Denham thought that collections could only be donated or destroyed but Chris indicated you can look for other venues to sell the collection. Chris explained that the DE accessing of both the doll collection and presidential collection were not done until the individuals who had given the collections had passed away.

Chris explained that our museum collections need to help tell the story of Joplin. Anything new that comes into the Museum must have signage that explains it well. We need a story to tell. Storage is a problem. Chris explained that if the Museum cannot take care of a certain collection as it should be taken care of we have to find a private collector or it may have to be burned. We need to promote the history and stories we want to tell of Joplin.

Kyle Denham asked if we ended up with any items from Allen Shirley's collections. Chris responded "nothing". Kyle thought maybe someone would have bought one of his collection pieces and donated it to the Museum. Paula Callahan said really none of his items pertained to Joplin. There were family issues that caused Allen's collections to not come to the Museum.

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Brad Belk explained that matters concerning DE accessed collections should stay within the walls of the Museum. People give on good faith. Paula Callahan expressed that the Museum is not taking any collections at this point that does not pertain to Joplin. This brought up the typewriter collection down in the basement. That is one of the next collections that will be DE accessed. There are two typewriter museums in the United States. Research will be done first.

Bob Harrington asked if Chris had looked into an Indian Exhibit since he has some ties with Downstream. Chris Wiseman told Bob that in fact he is working on a multi-institution conference involving Indians, Cowboys, Miners and Soldiers. Also, will be making contacts with Buffalo Run.

Chris was asked to leave the meeting briefly.

Brad asked the Advisory Board to recognize Mr. Everett J. Ritchie as Curator Emeritus of the Joplin Historical and Mineral Museum. Everett Ritchie will be forever remembered for his masterful work, passion, dedication and influence in transforming the museum mineral wing into one of the most absorbing geological institutions in the United States. The Advisory Board unanimously voted to name posthumously Mr. Everett J. Ritche as Curator Emeritus.

Brad additionally asked the Advisory Board to recognize Mr. Chris Wiseman as Curator Emeritus of the Joplin Historical and Mineral Museum. He has devoted most of his life here and this is his 26th year at the Museum. We need to recognize Chris in the way he feels most comfortable. Brad would like in a couple of months to honor Chris and award him the title of Curator Emeritus. The Advisory Board unanimously voted to name posthumously Mr. Chris Wiseman as Curator Emeritus.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Motion made by Nancy Messick and seconded by Bob Harrington. Motion passed.

Minutes taken by Nancy Messick (Dated March 3, 2023)