

ANACORTES MUSEUM – ADVISORY BOARD & COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE  
Remote meeting September 1, 2020 – MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Lewis Jones. Present were Gib Moore, Libby Walgamott, Dana Webb, Deane Brazas, and Kay Reinhardt. Museum staff attending were Bret Lunsford, Elaine Walker and Linda Yerby. A voting quorum was fulfilled.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Bret

- Recently more troubleshooting was done in order to ferret out the cause of the Carnegie Gallery elevator not functioning as it should. It turned out to be a heavy key chain attached to the ‘turn on’ key that interfered with the ‘on’ response. The heavy chain was removed and the key now smoothly interfaces with the elevator.
- With Washington Covid-19 protocols phasing in some public spaces being accessible, the Carnegie Gallery will begin receiving visitors in ‘bubble’ groupings, with the trial run tomorrow, September 2nd. Each ‘bubble’ will be an individual, pair or group all aligned with one another insofar as their safety practices have been concerned. A limit of 25% occupancy at any time is to be enforced. Each ‘bubble’ enters and exits separately. Only one ‘bubble’ at a time will occupy the gallery. Once the staff have gotten familiar with the protocol, it may be applied to the Maritime Heritage Center, although as autumn approaches that will not be as much a priority given that the MHC and Snagboat button things up for the winter by end of October.
- The huge deed of gift from the Bill Mitchell estate of 150 murals is officially accepted by the City. Ordinance 3070 ACCEPTANCE OF THE MURALS FROM THE BILL MITCHELL ESTATE FOR THE ANACORTES MURAL PROJECT passed at City Council August 10<sup>th</sup>. Still in the works are individual sponsors’ signing off on the City’s ownership with their understanding that a mural they once sponsored may be going into conservancy in order to prolong it’s life. As much as possible, the City wishes, with these ‘Placement Agreements’ to help former sponsors feel comfortable with the new relationship for the benefit of saving as many of the murals as possible from harmful environmental degradation. Leo Osborne has been asked by Bret if he would take an advisory role in conservation practices for the murals. Adopt-A-Mural program is being managed by the Anacortes Museum Foundation. Donations to the Foundation for this program are already on the upswing.

*ACTION TAKEN BY VOTE:* Elaine Walker, curator of collections, asked that the Advisory Board & Collections Committee consider a vote today that authorizes her to accession these murals as each ‘Placement Agreement’ is completed by both parties to the agreement. A motion was made by Libby that with the agreement signed an accession process can follow without a formal meeting of the Collections Committee. Deane seconded the motion. It carried AIF.

Bret will be the liaison for the City as the process gets underway.

- The shed storage in the alley behind the Carnegie Gallery is helping staff tremendously. Recently, the City approved a covered work space that would adjoin it.
- The Thompson Train disposition: City Council will meet September 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss whether to ‘surplus’ the train in order to facilitate a sale to the Iwan family who have an earnest offer to purchase that expires September 10<sup>th</sup>. The Advisory Board & Collections Committee has previously discussed the topic and has been in favor of the Thompson family’s newest version of their Memorandum of Agreement with the City stating they prefer a working train use of the engine and cars to a static exhibit. Bret asked that each attendee today speak up on the topic and again, the majority of the group see only benefits in selling the train to an organization that wishes to name it Anacortes Railway and operate it in California. Council would be requesting more time to take the final steps to come to a decision. Kay asked if a letter from the Advisory Committee to council would be a helpful piece of corroboration of our position. Bret felt that his discussions with council have been clearly understood that we indeed hold the position in favor of the wishes of the Thompson family.
- Bret asked for action to be taken today on whether or not fees for the use of reference library photos for his Harry Smith book project should be waived. He posted for viewing a document with the points of an agreement laid out and asked that after he left the meeting, each person could communicate to Elaine their thoughts on the fees.

Steve Oakley, previous museum director, had waived research library use fees for the project during his tenure. Bret has been working on the project for 15 years. Bret is self-publishing the book. It will be offered for sale in the museum gift shop to help raise funds for the Museum Foundation. Harry Smith was a musicologist who the Smithsonian has honored with a 6 LP set on its Smithsonian Folkways label. Harry attended Anacortes High School.

*ACTION TAKEN BY VOTE:* Libby made the motion that with a previous precedent established by Steve Oakley, the waiving of fees for use of the museum reference library to Bret, for the final phase of completion of the Harry Smith book, is approved. Dana seconded the motion. The motion carried AIF.

#### COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE – Lewis

Lewis asked Elaine if anything was currently pressing. She stated that she has only a few items to sort through and mostly they consist of several oval portraits of the Jorgensen family that would be pertinent to collections. There is nothing to vote on accessioning or returning to donor.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With all items of business having been discussed, the meeting was adjourned. AIF

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay Reinhardt