

Operations Committee Meeting September 2023

1200 West 35th St, River Level



Date and Time

September 5th, 2023

Start: 12:00 PM

End: 1:07 PM

Attendance

Jerry Thomas, Kath Thomas, William Derrah, Jim Jarecki, Trigg Waller, Mary Ann O'Rourke, Sari Breslin, and Ariana Rubin

Agenda for September 5, 2023, Operations Board Meeting

1. Approval of August 1, 2023, Minutes
2. Minute of silence for Capt. William Pinkney—eight bells.
3. Operations Chair Report—Goals for the new year
 1. Report on CMMFestival (committee meeting 8/29/2023)
 2. Progress on Pinkney and Lady Elgin exhibits
 3. 2023 Museum Trustee Association Fall Forum Invite (attached)
3. Collections—status of curator job search
4. Volunteer update—Ariana
5. Event Planning--Kath
 1. Recent and Upcoming events
6. Communication Committee Report—Mary Ann
 1. September Newsletter
7. Education—Sari
8. 3rd Fridays—Jim
 1. Upcoming 3rd Friday
9. Membership--Ariana
10. CMM Store--Ariana and Kath
11. Old business
12. New Business

Approval of August 1st, 2023, Minutes

Kath moved to approve the August minutes as distributed. The motion was duly seconded by Sari and approved. *August minutes are ready for posting.*

Minute of Silence for Captain Bill Pinkney

The Operations Committee took a moment of silence in remembrance of Captain Bill Pinkney who recently passed away. The committee recalled his efforts towards exhibits, education, and much more at the Chicago Maritime Museum.

Mary Ann proposed hosting or participating in a memorial event for Captain Bill Pinkney. Sari suggested revising the new upcoming exhibit to focus more on his life and accomplishments.

Kath also suggested sending out an Eblast about his involvement with the museum on his birthday, September 15th.

Operations Chair Report

CMMFestival

Jerry reported that his and Mary Alyce's notes on the CMMFestival are available for the Operations Committee. Ariana confirmed she will share access to the CMMFestival2023 OneDrive folder to everyone on the Operations Committee.

Lady Elgin and Pinkney Exhibits Updates

Jerry reported he met with Valerie and Jim Forney to discuss the museum's upcoming exhibits. Jim Forney will make a trial cut of what exhibit should be. Jerry pitched the focus should be on how to break down barriers through STEM education.

The Lady Elgin exhibit was previously focused on its legal lawsuits. However, Jerry reported that Capt. Dave said CMM should be able to display collections items. If someone wants to acquire them, they will have to go through an official process that includes payment. The new focus of the exhibit will be underwater archaeology, specifically what it entails, who does it, and how someone can get involved.

Jerry asked for feedback from the Operations Committee. Kath suggested focusing on historical research. Trigg said we are moving in the right direction, and we should avoid talking about the lawsuit. Jerry said he would like to focus on what visitors should walk away with after spending time with the exhibit. Jim Jarecki said he supports focusing on underwater archaeology as it allows for educational programming.

Jerry reported that Valerie has a set budget, and the next step is to come together with the curatorial design which will be run by the Operations Committee. Ted Karamanski will be the gatekeeper to make sure we have a single point of contact with Valerie.

2023 Museum Trustee Association Fall Forum

Jerry presented the invite for the 2023 Museums Trustee Association Fall Forum. Ariana expressed interest in attending. Jim told the Operations Committee that there is a cost for attending. Jerry and Ariana agreed to do more research. Bill suggested presenting this forum as an opportunity to the Board of Directors to see if they would like to be more involved.

Collections Report

Job Search Update

Jerry announced that CMM hired a new curator, Madeline Crispell. Madeline will officially start on Monday, September 11th. Mary Ann said she will put together an article for the next newsletter.

Volunteer Update

Ariana reported that the new volunteer program is officially in place. The next few steps will focus on our docent program. The next volunteer meeting is September 25 at 2:00pm.

Event Planning (Kath)

Recent Events

Kath reported that the Jocelyn Green event went well. Jim and Bill were docents for the event.

Kath said a docent is needed for a visit from Pierre-Marc Durivage, a Canadian reporter. Bill agreed to give him a tour on September 8th.

Communications Committee Report – (Mary Ann)

September Newsletter

Mary Ann reported that the September newsletter was distributed. It included a tribute to Captain Bill Pinkney as well as a profile on Sari.

Mary Ann also reported that Ariana hosted a website meeting which focused on changes on the CMM website regarding the CMMFestival. There will be another meeting at the end of the year for a website critique.

Mary Ann told the Operations Committee that Jerry completed an interview for the Sun Times regarding Bill Pinkney's passing and his involvement with the museum.

Education (Sari)

Sari presented various pricing options for purchasing the newly designed CMM brochures. Mary Ann moved to proceed with the \$500 option for 2,000 copies on premium paper. Sari seconded. She will submit the order and send the receipts to Ariana for QuickBooks.

Third Friday (Jim)

Jim reported that there is no speaker for September's Third Friday. However, he is in touch with a poet who was recommended by David and Sarah Metzger. Jim is waiting for more information.

Jim reported that October's lecture will focus on the Underground Railroad program. More details to come.

Membership (Ariana)

Ariana presented August's numbers for museum visits, ticket sales, and membership. She reported that CMM received 155 visits including Open House and \$590 in ticket sales for the month.

CMM Store (Ariana and Kath)

Ariana reported that Sari dropped off new postcards which are now available in the museum store. Kath said it is time to go beyond the festival and talk about holiday information regarding the store. She and Ariana will set up a meeting.

New Business

Bill announced that the historical reenactment with one of Ralph Frese's canoes is this weekend. Jerry requested that Bill should provide photographs to use for the upcoming newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at: 1:07

Submitted by:
Ariana Rubin