

FORT WORTH MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes
March 14, 1989

The Board of Trustees of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History met March 14, 1989 with the President, Reginald Robinson, presiding.

The following members were present:

Mrs. Carol Alexander	Mrs. Dorothy McDonald
Mrs. Anne Bass	Mr. Robert Mitchell
Mrs. Gretchen Denny	Mr. Melvin Olsen
Mr. James Ervin	Mr. Donald Otto
Preston Geren	Mr. Bill G. Prince
Dick Greenman	Mr. John Richards
Mr. Elray Howard	Mr. Reginald Robinson
Mrs. Erma Johnson	Mr. Gordon Smith
Mr. Mark Johnson	Lisa B. Williams
Mr. Robert Lansford	Mr. Frank Young
Mrs. Mollie Lasater	

The following members were absent:

Mrs. Carol Beech	Mrs. Christene Moss
Dr. Reid C. Ferring	Mr. Ronald Parrish
Mr. Jenkins Garrett	Mr. James Toal

The minutes of the January and February meetings were approved as circulated.

Lisa Williams presented the Treasurer's Report. Current assets of the museum are \$4,259,534, approximately \$367,500 more than this time last year. Some significant variances are: while cash remained almost constant, investments increased by almost \$271,000; Prepaid expense has increased approximately \$76,000, mostly because of deposits made on future exhibits and film rental; an increase of \$25,000 in accounts receivable can be attributed to accrued interest earned; and we still have \$18,750 receivable on the Institute of Museum Services grant. Current liabilities of \$250,935 reflect little change over last year. All fund balances combined total \$11,705,826. Revenues in the Operating Fund exceed expense by \$190,230. Expenses are in line in all areas. The I.R.S. audit was finished in a day and a half. The auditor was very impressed with the operation and record keeping of the museum, and found all items in the Museum Store well documented and relating to the museum's collections, exhibits, or mission. Motion was made and seconded to extend praise and commendation to the staff. The motion carried unanimously. The Finance Committee will meet Friday to consider the city budget proposal.

Mr. Robinson reported that the Nominating Committee had recommended Gretchen Denny to fill a member-at-large vacancy on the Executive Committee. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion was made and seconded to elect Mrs. Denny to the Executive Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

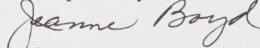
Mr. Otto summarized the pending proposal by the Convention/Visitor's Bureau to extend their contract with the city which includes a request for a higher percentage of the bed tax monies. He asked members to contact city council members and voice our concern about future funding for the museum. The board will be notified when the issue appears on the pre-council agenda. Mr. Otto also explained how HB 1023 defining the areas the hotel/motel tax may be used would affect not only this museum, but arts organizations statewide, and asked members to write letters to the Tarrant County delegation in Austin voicing objection.

Mr. Otto reported that Moore Diversified had submitted a proposal to do an economic impact study for the museum. He explained the two options in the proposal: the first, at a cost of \$4,000, would include information taken in previous surveys for the Fort Worth Zoo in 1987 and the Fort Worth Stock Show in 1986, and Fort Worth Museum of Science and History expenditures and budgets; the second option, at a cost of \$14,500, would include specifically designed surveys of Museum visitors taken over approximately a two-week time period that includes Easter and Spring Break. The Executive Committee recommends Option II because of the various ways the up-to-date information could be used. Mr. Olsen suggested that we find out if there is any specific information the City of Fort Worth would like to have included. Mr. Prince stated that the information from the study would be helpful in program planning. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation to approve Option II. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Robinson appointed the following members to the Nominating Committee: Dorothy McDonald, Chair; Gretchen Denny; Erma Johnson; Ronald Parrish; Bill G. Prince; James Toal; and Lisa Williams.

Mr. Otto reported that he had attended a meeting of the proposed partners in the volcano film project, The Science Museum of Minnesota, The Reuben H. Fleet Space Theater and Science Center, Graphic Films, and the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. A professional scriptwriter has been retained, and a search for a national funding source has begun. He stated that we have received a draft of a Partnership Agreement, and a Production and Distribution Agreement. We will be making additions, deletions, and changes, as will the other partners. Mr. Otto would welcome board members' input. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne Boyd

Acting Secretary