



Inaugural Advisory Committee Meeting June 9, 2011

Members Present: Dr. Jacob Goldberger, Chair; Richard Akin; Dr. Karen Nathan; Vicki Santini; John Shepherd; Gina Sabiston

Others in Attendance: Dr. Roger Scott, Dr. Edith Pendleton, Dr. Jeff Elsberry
Genevieve Matz, Recorder

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Goldberger called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm.

2. Advisory Committee Purpose and Mission Statement Approval

Dr. Goldberger stated the need for the advisory committee to provide guidance and direction to the Museum as it becomes a true organization open to the public. The Mission Statement was reviewed. Dr. Goldberger recommended that the phrase “collect, preserve and interpret” be changed to “collect, preserve and promote.” Ms. Sabiston moved, seconded by Dr. Nathan to accept the recommendation. The recommendation passed unanimously. The Mission Statement will be included in Museum literature as well as included in outside displays.

3. Curator’s Comments

Future Hours

Dr. Scott discussed his availability for tours outside of the Museum’s dedicated hours of 10 am to 2 pm Monday through Friday. Consideration will be given to opening the Museum one night per week and one Saturday per month.

Collection Policies

A Transfer of Title form is to be completed for each donor/donation; objects are only to be accepted with Curator’s approval. Dr. Goldberger recommended the Museum’s name be updated on the Transfer of Title from Museum of Medical History to “Museum of Medical History at Edison State College.” Dr. Nathan moved, seconded by Ms. Sabiston and the recommendation passed unanimously. Dr. Scott reviewed the Curator’s Guide which will be updated to a second edition over the next few months. The second edition will be brought to the Advisory Committee for approval.

Museum Collection Articles in Other Locations

There are five off-site Museum displays. Signage including the Museum’s Mission Statement should be added to each of these displays.

Advertising the Museum

Dr. Scott emphasized the need for additional advertisement for the Museum. He commented on the remarkable number of Naples visitors based on the article published in the Naples Daily News and hoped for a similar story to be published in the Fort Myers area.

4. Update Museum of Medical History Website

Dr. Elsberry mentioned the multiple video segments that were being produced to serve as a ‘trailer’ on the Museum’s website.

5. Progress Report: Software for Cataloguing Museum Collection

Dr. Scott discussed the process of cataloguing Museum donations. Currently, all cataloguing is done by hand and a database will be put in place where the information will be recorded in a searchable database.

6. Long Term Storage of Artifacts Not on Display

Dr. Scott reminded the Committee of the huge collection still in storage at Swamp Cabbage and the importance of maintaining some type of storage facility. Not all displays in the Museum remain static; the Museum was designed with a corner dedicated as a “special exhibit” area.

Discussion followed regarding the sale and disposal of duplicate items or those too large to remain in storage. The possibility of sharing items with other museums or organizations on an exchange-type basis was discussed, as well as the formation of an auxiliary-type thrift shop offering items for sale. Dr. Pendleton stated that the College may not be able to pay for permanent storage. Dr. Elsberry then recommended that low cost storage areas be investigated and that a legal opinion be developed for the disposal or sale of duplicate items. Dr. Goldberger moved, seconded by Ms. Sabiston and the recommendation passed unanimously.

7. Open Discussion: “Planning Long Term Community and Sustainability Goals”

The need for additional publicity as well as volunteer coverage in the Museum will be pursued. Ms. Sabiston and Ms. Santini will coordinate efforts at the high school level to enlist senior students as volunteers in conjunction with their community service project. Dr. Nathan will initiate contacts with the News Press. Ms. Sabiston and Ms. Santini will contact the high school Medical Academy coordinator to arrange field trips to the Museum during the school year.

The issue of obtaining adequate Museum signage on campus, and possibly directional signs on roadways, was discussed. Additionally, signage will be placed on the five outside exhibits referencing the Museum’s Mission Statement and operating hours.

8. Next Steps

The Committee discussed future meetings and agreed to meet four times a year with the next meeting tentatively scheduled in September time from 4 pm to 5 pm. The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.