

City of Naperville

*400 S. Eagle Street
Naperville, IL 60540*



Naperville

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Friday, August 21, 2020

8:00 AM

Via Zoom

Naper Settlement Museum Board

Alex Atkinson, Director of Finance, Naper Settlement
Erin Hegarty, Naperville Sun

Present 8 - Paul Hinterlong, John Koranda, Len Monson , Greg Waite, David Wentz, Bridget Kozlowski, Al Zucco, and Quillinan Lee

Absent 1 - NSMB Steve Chirico

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

There were no comments from the public.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

Receive an update on the *Women: Waves of Change* exhibition and the 19th amendment celebration.

Donna Sack explained that Naper Settlement is planning an event that coincides with Women's Equality Day on August 26. Coinciding with this event will be the opening of *Women: Waves of Change*, an exhibit that celebrates the many ways women have influenced civic change for over 150 years. The exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage and shares the histories of local women whose contributions impacted the city, state, and nation we have become. It can be viewed in the two main floor galleries of the Pre-Emption house as well as throughout the site. Large banners outside showcase notable women, and an on-cell tour specifically about women's history was developed. As part of the event on the 26th, there will be activities on-site including a ribbon cutting and living-history portrayals. Sack and Calabrese emphasized that this exhibit ties into Naper Settlement's expanded mission to tell all of Naperville's history and the museum's desire to produce more original exhibits that tie into the national story.

Receive an update on Naper Settlement's reopening to the public.

Calabrese shared that the museum has been open for about a month and has welcomed over 2,000 visitors. Overall, it is nice to see that people want to come back. Sack and Calabrese described the changes that were made to summer camps, on-site tours, and admission to the Playscape as a result of the pandemic. Calabrese described the Cinema at the Settlement events scheduled in August and September. Sack stated that reading programs for young children and the History Speaks lectures are still being hosted online.

Receive an update on grants.

Calabrese stated that staff had submitted two grant applications to the State and are in the process of working on a third through a private foundation; all of these grants would fund capital projects. One application was submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources asking for around \$700k in funding for the Agricultural Interpretive Center. Another grant application was submitted to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for funding for the Innovation

Gateway. An update on the status of these grants is expected by September or October. Councilman Hinterlong asked how the pandemic has affected the grant process and if any grants have been rescinded. Sack replied that the federal grants that we are currently involved with have all had to pivot because of the travel involved. She stated that we are getting extensions for all of our in-progress grants, which is not unusual. She added that there have actually been more opportunities for grant funding as a result of the pandemic.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Receive information about the water service line break on the Naper Settlement campus.

Calabrese stated that on June 24, the water main that feeds into the Pre-Emption House experienced two leaks and caused flooding to the *Brushstrokes* exhibit in the lower level. Currently, staff is not sure when this exhibit will be able to reopen. All artifacts from the lower level are being moved to the Fort Hill Care & Storage Facility so that teams can move forward with repairs and construction. Staff will use this opportunity to update the exhibit to tell more of Naperville's 20th and 21st century history. Thankfully, curatorial staff were on-site that day and were able to act quickly to relocate artifacts and work with the City to get the water shut off.

Receive an update on Naper Settlement's picnic table partnership with downtown Naperville organizations.

Calabrese shared that the Naperville Development Partnership and Downtown Naperville Alliance had been working to designate a weekend where certain streets in downtown Naperville would be closed to vehicle traffic to allow more space for outdoor dining, and Naper Settlement provided picnic tables for this effort.

Receive information on Naper Settlement's RFP for a distance learning program.

Sack gave an overview of how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of Naper Settlement's programs and service levels, especially those for the 35,000 schoolchildren and teachers who visit the site annually. She and her team have been working with the City's procurement team for an RFP that would fund a distance learning program comprised of three different modules that are targeted for different subjects/ age groups. Two would be based off of current field trips and a new third program would be designed to provide enrichment for social and emotional learning and help students develop resilience. Sack is hopeful that this program can launch quickly because it is unlikely that schools will return for in-person field trips before 2022.

F. REPORTS:

Approve the minutes from the June 5, 2020 Naper Settlement Museum Board meeting.

Attachments: [MeetingMinutesfrom June 5 2020 meeting](#)

The minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Greg Waite, seconded by Dave Wentz.

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Aye: 8 - Hinterlong, Koranda, Monson, Waite, Wentz, Kozlowski, Zucco, and Lee

Absent: 1 - NSMB Chirico

Approve the Naper Settlement Operating Financial report ending April 30, 2020.

Attachments: [For Aug meeting - Financials](#)

Alex Atkinson, Director of Finance for Naper Settlement, summarized the financial reports. She stated that the reports provided at the next meeting would give a clearer picture of the impacts of the pandemic. These reports do show a drop off in revenue from school services, tours and public programming, and other rentals. A few big projects, like new program guides, had already been completed before the shutdown.

The financial report was approved as presented with a motion by Dave Wentz, seconded by Al Zucco.

Aye: 8 - Hinterlong, Koranda, Monson, Waite, Wentz, Kozlowski, Zucco, and Lee

Absent: 1 - NSMB Chirico

Receive the Naper Settlement attendance report for July 2020.

Attachments: [July20 Attendance Report](#)

Calabrese explained that the attendance report was formatted differently than previous reports because of the recent software upgrade. She summarized that the Settlement has had about 2,000 visitors since mid-July. Even though fall programming has been cancelled, staff is still working on ways to bring the community together onsite through programs like Cinema at the Settlement. There are dips in the attendance graph as a result of the museum only being open for three hours on Sundays.

Additional new business items were discussed:

Councilman Hinterlong asked if staff were thinking about social distancing guidelines while developing plans for the campus expansion. Calabrese stated that the new buildings were designed to be digitally-minded, so it's likely that there will be pieces of the new exhibits that could be accessed via a personal computer.

Sack added that the new technology will help the Learning Experiences team provide mini-experiences in the exhibits that could be broadcast to schools.

Dave Wentz thanked the Settlement for hosting "The Trial of Pete Rose" play in July. It was the first event at Naper Settlement this summer, and staff was very accommodating especially as the weather was uncertain. Calabrese added that it was a great event, and as the City's museum, Naper Settlement is determined to bring the community together for things like this. Wentz added that the play will be staged again on 8/29 in Aurora.

G. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting the Naper Settlement Museum Board was adjourned at 9:04 AM with a motion from Dave Wentz, seconded by Al Zucco.

Aye: 8 - Hinterlong, Koranda, Monson, Waite, Wentz, Kozlowski, Zucco, and Lee

Absent: 1 - NSMB Chirico