

**MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY, INC.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2024**  
**MOSI Rainforest Room**

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**Present:** Bret Feldman (Chair), Holly Markham, Lori Nissen, Shadel Hamilton, Michael Morris, Gina Evans, Peter Stiling, Brian Kornfeld, Pat Kemp (3:10), Colleen Faucett (3:12) Kemal Kvakic (3:15).

**MOSI Staff:** John Smith (CEO and President)

Noting that Colleen and Kemal had emailed that they were on their way, but a quorum having been present, the meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm, by Board Chair, Bret Feldman.

**Public Comments**

No members of the public were present during the meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

There was no consent agenda

**The following documents were available to be reviewed at the meeting:** January financials, AAM Emergency Preparedness Plan and Collections Statement.

Bret asked John to leave for an Executive Session that ran from 3:07 to 3:18pm. An extension to John's existing contract, set to expire next year, was discussed and approved.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer**

John noted that Kerri was out of town on a family matter and that she had asked him to present the January financials to the group. He presented them and noted that we have also produced financials through February, but that they had not yet been reviewed in committee. However, all signs point to a positive year relative to budget, and John indicated that the uncertainty of County funding for FY24-25 wouldn't have an impact on this year's results, but could lead to drastic cuts needed for the next budget cycle.

Michael asked if the Board should also accept the Finance Committee's report on the FY22-23 audit, and John thanked him for that reminder. He pointed out that RG&Co. presented to the Committee, with Bret and Kemal also in attendance, and that the Committee voted to accept the report as presented. The Board then voted unanimously to do the same.

**CEO and President Report**

John shared an update on the request for State funding which was not included in the budget being sent to the Governor. Of the \$2B in cuts that were sought this cycle, MOSI's request (and other sister institution requests) were denied.

John noted that County funding totaling roughly \$230,000 from prior cycles and \$150,000 in current year FLAG funding are underway and should be closed and reimbursed this fiscal year as planned. In addition, the County is continuing to oversee the roof repairs to the domed building, and a recent inspection of all buildings by the City Fire Marshall resulted in a series of updates that will fall on both MOSI and the County to be in compliance. These updates are in various states of completion.

John then updated the group on the RFP process and how a rejuvenated group of leaders in the Uptown Area have recently convened to coordinate efforts in planning and growth. These include leaders from USF, VA, Yuengling, Moffitt, Busch Gardens, UACDC, RD Management and MOSI. He noted that the current lack of commitment for funding around the dome theater hasn't yet delayed the timing of the project, but that a pending May deadline could force the project off track if a donor isn't secured by then.

John also shared that the ZBW closure in Ybor has led to a great deal of turnover and uncertainty with the MOSI location, although Bret pointed out that the Ybor-related corporation which filed for bankruptcy is a different entity than the one operating at MOSI, but both are Pepin-family owned. John agreed that a closure of the MOSI site, which has not yet been discussed, wouldn't trigger a similar bankruptcy as there is no debt associated with the project, but could disrupt operations and the guest experience. Shadel inquired about any impacts already seen and John shared that the restaurant is currently not open Monday and Tuesday due to staff shortages, and that future event bookings are being delayed due to the uncertainty.

Bret then reminded John of the need to approve the changes to the Preparedness Plan and Collections Policy as requested by AAM. John discussed those items and the approaching site visit, and the group approved the documents as presented via a motion by Pat and a second from Michael.

## **BUSINESS**

**Endowment Committee**- No Report

**Governance Committee** – No Report

### **Development Committee**

Gina reported that Board members are being asked to review their MOSI giving history to ensure that we have 100% participation in the current fiscal year. John suggested that Kenyetta would send an email to each member outlining support in three areas: current membership status at MOSI, most recent charitable gift, and any related corporate gifts solicited by the member. All are encouraged to make a new gift.

Gina then updated the group on plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Science of the Cuban Sandwich" event scheduled for Saturday, 9/28. She noted that there will even be a vegetarian option this year and encouraged all to hold the date and help identify potential sponsors. Other areas the committee is focused on is the growth in outside event rentals and the upcoming Giving Tuesday campaign, which will fall exceptionally late this year due to the way Thanksgiving falls on the calendar.

### **Community Engagement Committee**

Shadel noted that the group had recently met and discussed opportunities including expansion of camps into high school ages and the potential for coding programming in Pinellas County. A full report of the meeting is included with these minutes.

**CHAIR REMARKS**

Bret noted that we were just at the full hour slated for the meeting and that he had no further comments. John reminded the group that the next meeting would be held at 3pm on Thursday, June 20 at MOSI, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:  
John Graydon Smith,  
President and CEO



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Lori Nissen, Secretary

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Date    \_3/25/2024\_