Minutes of the HISTORY MUSEUM AND LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD recorded at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, within the Tempe History Museum Board Room, 809 E. Southern Ave., Tempe, AZ.

(MEMBERS) Present:
Virginia (Ginny) Sylvester (Chair)
John Linda (Vice-Chair)
David Huizingh
Margaret (Peggy) Moroney
Mary O’Grady
Gail Rathbun
Joaquin Rios
Jacque Tobias
Jennifer Wagner (via phone)

City Staff Present:  
Kathy Husser, Deputy Community Services Director, Library Services  
Brenda Abney, Tempe History Museum Manager  
Amanda Martin, Administrative Assistant, Tempe History Museum

General Public Present:  
Larry Conway, Friends of the Tempe Public Library President  
Vic Linoff, Tempe Historical Society President

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order:  
- Virginia (Ginny) Sylvester, History Museum and Library Advisory Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 - Call to the Audience:  
- None

Agenda Item 3 – Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2016-2017:  
- Discussion of elections.

MOTION: Virginia (Ginny) Sylvester made a motion to elect John Linda as Board Chairperson.
Agenda Item 4 – Approval of the January 4, 2017 History Museum and Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes: ACTION

- Virginia (Ginny) Sylvester asked Board members to review the unapproved History Museum and Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes document dated January 4, 2017.

MOTION: John Linda made a motion to approve the January 4, 2017 History Museum and Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

SECOND: Virginia (Ginny) Sylvester seconded.

DECISION: The January 4, 2017 History Museum and Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Item 5 – Friends of the Tempe Public Library Report:

- Larry Conway had no items to report.
- L. Conway thanked Virginia (Ginny) Sylvester for her service as Chairperson for the History Museum and Library Advisory Board.

Agenda Item 6 – Tempe Historical Society Report:

- Vic Linoff reported on the following to the Board:
  - The Tempe Historical Society’s (THS) January lunch talk drew a crowd of 200 guests. V. Linoff stated that the February Lunch Talk guest speaker, Liz Warren, will share stories of life on the railroad.
  - THS hosted a curatorial tour of the Trains of Tempe exhibit for society members.
  - The upcoming Hayden’s Ferry Days three-day event includes a kick-off dinner at the Tempe History Museum on the February 24; a historic downtown walking tour and historic home open houses, and tea service at the Eisendrath House on February 25; and a free festival in the Community Services Complex and Tempe History Museum on February 26. Linoff noted that 2017 is the second year of the Hayden’s Ferry Days event.
    - Linoff added that THS received a $3,500 arts grant from the City of Tempe to put towards the Hayden’s Ferry Days event.

Agenda Item 7 – Staff Reports:

- Library Report – Kathy Husser reported on the following to the Board:
  - The library hosted its third Comicon event on January 28 with an approximate attendance of 2,800 people.
  - Angela Weisner has been hired to fill the library’s Youth Librarian position.
The recruitment process for the Library Specialist position is in progress.

The library will begin recruiting in a few months for a Technical Services Manager position, held by Clay Workman who is retiring this summer.

The library is accepting submissions for its annual Tempe Community Writing Contest and Cover Design Contest. K. Husser noted that submission information is available on the library’s website and that a winner’s reception will be held in April, 2017.

Husser announced that construction will begin outside the library’s main entrance in March, 2017 as part of Tempe’s new bike share program. Husser explained that 17 total bike share stations will be located throughout Tempe, and that the program is scheduled to kick-off in April, 2017.

An online survey is available on the library’s website and was also emailed out to library card holders. Husser explained that the 10-question survey is being conducted in anticipation of the city’s planned web re-design occurring in 2018. Husser encouraged Board members to take the survey, which will be available online through the end of March. [https://www.tempe.gov/city-hall/community-services/tempe-public-library/about-us/website-satisfaction-survey](https://www.tempe.gov/city-hall/community-services/tempe-public-library/about-us/website-satisfaction-survey)

Husser shared with the Board that physical visitation to the library is down 6%, but that circulation is up due to eBooks. Husser added that program attendance is up from last year. Husser explained that this decrease of physical attendance and increase of circulation is currently a common trend across libraries.

- **Museum Report** – Brenda Abney reported on the following to the Board:
  
  - The museum had 650 visitors as a result of the library’s January 28 Comicon event.
  - February is a busy month for the museum with 15 events scheduled in a nine-day period which includes two of four Blacks History Month programs that the museum is offering in partnership with the library.
  - The museum is engaging in a number of community partnerships to host programs or events including: Tempe Historical Society Lunch Talks and an exhibit tour, the Tetra String Quartet Azure concert for individuals on the Autism spectrum, the African American Advisory Committee’s Black History Month programs, and a Muslim Committee history event.
  - The Minder Binder wagon is in need of repair, and a fundraising effort is being held by the San Tan Flat at Minder Binder restaurant in partnership with the Tempe History Museum and Tempe Historical Society. On February 16, 2017, 20% of proceeds from restaurant sales designated by patrons to “save the wagon” will go towards the wagon’s restoration. B. Abney noted that a vendor located in the mid-west has been identified to repair and rebuild the wagon’s wheels.
  - The museum has been awarded an SRPMIC Tribal grant for and amount just over $40,000, to be used towards the creation of a classroom/maker’s space within the Tempe History Museum. Abney explained that the new classroom will be located within the Kids’ Place area of the museum’s main exhibit hall, with construction anticipated to start in August, 2017.
    - Abney further explained that due to the classroom construction, museum staff is seeking storage space to house large-scale farm equipment in the collection for an approximate two-year period.

**Agenda Item 8 – History Museum and Library Advisory Board status update: Discussion**

- Brenda Abney reported on the following to the Board:
The Library and Cultural Services Division is changing and will become two separate divisions: Library, and Arts & Culture. As a result, the structure of the History Museum and Library Advisory Board is anticipated to change. B. Abney announced that the library may have its own board, and that the museum may merge with the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission (TMAC) to become the Arts & Culture Board.

- Abney noted that the following city facilities and programs are included within the Arts & Culture Division: Tempe Center for the Arts, Public Art, Arts Engagement, Arts Education and the Tempe History Museum.
- Abney explained that the charters would be re-written for both the Library and Arts & Culture boards, and presented to Tempe City Council for approval.
- Abney asked for the Board Members’ input regarding the potential transition of the History Museum and Library Advisory Board.
  - Members of the board expressed concern that the museum may become overshadowed by other programs and facilities within the Arts & Culture Division.
  - Members of the Board value the collaborative, enriching and engaging partnership between the library and museum resulting from the creation of the History Museum and Library Advisory Board.
- Abney asked if any Board members would be interested in transitioning to an Arts & Culture Board.
  - The following Board members expressed interest in transitioning to an Arts & Culture Board: Margaret (Peggy) Moroney, Mary O’Grady, Joaquin Rios, Jacque Tobias and Jennifer Wagner.
- Abney invited History Museum and Library Advisory Board members who expressed interest in an Arts & Culture Board to attend a TMAC retreat on March 27, 2017.
- Virginia (Ginny) Sylvester asked that the current term status of each History Museum and Library Advisory Board member be distributed to the Board.

**Agenda Item 9 – Museum Collections Committee report: Discussion and possible action on committee report recommendations**

- Written report provided to the Board.
- Jennifer Wagner reported on the following:
  - There are three current provisional deposits.
  - There are no new provisional deposits.
  - There are 13 recommended acquisitions including pieces of the previous Tempe Town Lake rubber dam, Tempe Center for the Arts construction documents, Fees school library catalogue machine, a painted portrait of Clyde Laird.

**MOTION:** John Linda made a motion to approve the recommended collections acquisitions as presented.
**SECOND:** Jacque Tobias seconded.
**DECISION:** Recommended collections acquisitions approved as presented.

**Agenda Item 10 – Board Members’ Announcements**

- John Linda announced that the annual Tempe Empty Bowls event is scheduled to occur from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday, February 24 in downtown Tempe, and from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, February 25 within the Community Services Complex courtyard on Rural Rd. and Southern Ave.

**Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment**
Chair Virginia (Ginny) Sylvester adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

The next meeting date and location of the History Museum and Library Advisory Board is Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 5:30 PM in the Tempe Public Library – 2nd Floor Board Room.

Prepared by: Amanda Martin
Reviewed by: Brenda Abney and Kathy Husser

Approval signature: History Museum and Library Advisory Board Member