ACTION MINUTES
CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
MUSEUM BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber—City Hall—300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA

CALL TO ORDER
Present: Chair Elayne Azevedo, Secretary Broeck Oder, Board Member David Laws, and Board Member Lisa Max; City Council Liaison Robert Huitt; and Mayor Bill Peake, City Manager Ben Harvey; Museum Director Jeanette Kihs; and ten community members.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Agenda approved by consensus.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

3. APPROVAL OF MUSEUM BOARD MEETING MINUTES
The Minutes of the August 6, 2019 meeting were approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. ITEMS NOT REQUIRING ACTION
   A. Correspondence
      None

   B. City Council Liaison Comments
      Council Member Huitt began by thanking the members of the Board for their service and noting he had several items. First, the Coastal Committee meeting on Pacific Grove’s Local Coastal Plan will be happening in the week of November 11, 2019, and city representatives will be in attendance. Secondly, Council Member Huitt also reported that the Pacific Grove Library project continues to proceed well. Additionally the new safety measures at the Museum are almost all in place, the City has approved rental protocols, and Board Member David Laws was commended for his work on the Museum’s behalf.

   C. Museum Director’s Reports for July, August, and September were reviewed. Director Kihs has indicted that requests on the Museum for services vary from month to month, as some requests are consistent and regular, while others are more for a single, stand-alone type of event. In response to a question from Chair Azevedo, Director Kihs noted that a
“few” bird displays have not yet been brought up from the basement. Board Member Laws noted he came across a Museum public “information table” in Monterey and commended Director Kihs for that proactive approach.

D. City Manager Harvey’s comments were limited to a single item, as he reported there is a request to place a permanent display of a poem in the Monarch Sanctuary. This item will appear on the agenda for the February, 2020 meeting.

E. Board Chair Azevedo noted that the members of the community in attendance, and she welcomed them for taking the time and interest to join the Board at this meeting.

5. REVIEW OF ITEMS OF PREVIOUS MEETING
None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None

7. NEW BUSINESS
Mayor Peake introduced the new business for the Board’s consideration regarding input from community members that the City and the Board take on increased involvement regarding the Point Pinos Lighthouse. Mayor Peake described the grounds of the lighthouse, noting there are approximately three (3) acres of land which are not part of the golf course. There is a restroom in the gift shop on the grounds, with the gift shop staffed part-time by volunteers from the Public works Department. The two outbuildings are small, built in 2004 and designed to blend with the architecture of the lighthouse itself. Mayor Peake emphasized that the lighthouse is still a functioning lighthouse, and the U.S. Coast Guard has access to the lighthouse to maintain the light. Mayor Peake noted the reason the members of the community had joined the Board at this meeting was a suggestion to modify the lighthouse’s operation. Mayor Peake noted that, at the current time, Public Works makes all decisions regarding the lighthouse, but no city committee or board provides a forum for public input, advice, etc. A number of citizens have asked Mayor Peake about this “oversight,” and this is the issue he would like the Museum Board to consider. There were no questions, so the Board invited the community members who wished to speak to do so. The first speaker was Ken Hinshaw, who observed the need to “facilitate a discussion or review of discussions” on the future care and custodianship of the lighthouse. The second speaker was Robert Frischmuth, who noted he has had significant involvement with the Museum over many years and further noted that the City operated the Museum, and the Museum operated the lighthouse in years gone by. Mr. Frischmuth noted the arrangement “existed and worked very well,” as visitors at the lighthouse were invited and encouraged to also visit the Museum, and staff at the Museum similarly encouraged its visitors to visit the lighthouse.
He concluded by noting that a return to this form of interactive cooperation between the lighthouse and the Museum was something “I certainly recommend.” The third speaker, Mr. Chris Patton, has worked at the Hopkins Institute for forty-one (41) years and has volunteered at the lighthouse for twelve years. Mr. Patton noted that people are disappointed and fairly vocal on-line (via “Google Business”) if the lighthouse is closed and visitors cannot see anything but the exterior of the lighthouse. Mr. Patton said that there is no clear “line of direction” or “permission seeking” for the volunteers working at the Lighthouse. He noted that it is hard for the volunteers to do much because they are not allowed to do much of anything without permission, the origin of which is unclear.

Mr. Augie Scornaiechi, the fourth speaker, completely endorsed Mr. Patton’s views, noting he himself has been a lighthouse volunteer for four years. Mr. Scornaiechi also expressed hope that if the Museum Board takes on a role for the lighthouse, a docent liaison would be allowed to facilitate communications between the Board and the lighthouse volunteers. The fifth and final speaker, Mr. Dennis Tarmina, a ten year volunteer at the lighthouse, said it is key that the volunteers and the public at-large have a clear way to express what they would like to experience at the lighthouse, what they think of any given event, display, etc., and generally feel they are being heard. Mr. Tarmina emphasized he was not advocating the Museum/Museum Board assume “day-to-day management,” but rather an improved two-way avenue of communication and cooperation in presenting the Museum and the lighthouse to both locals and visitors. In the ensuing discussion, Board Member Laws said he was not entirely sure how the Museum would or does link to the lighthouse. City Manager Harvey clarified the Museum Board would not have “oversight” via budget control or something along that lines, but more of what Mayor Peake envisions as a “venue” in which those with concerns or ideas about the lighthouse can be most effectively heard. “Oversight,” as envisioned, would be facilitating more effective and clear two-way communication between the lighthouse volunteers and the city/public-at-large. Mayor Peake cited as an example that the Museum Board could have a regular agenda item devoted to the lighthouse so there is a clear avenue of communication. Chair Azevedo noted the Board would be “a stage for discussion,” with which City Manager Harvey agreed. City Manager Harvey went on to say that he and Mayor Peake would work on developing an official motion for the Board to take on the role. Further discussion along that line will also be necessary, and the next question became whether the Museum Board should schedule a special meeting for this purpose or wait until the scheduled regular meeting in February, 2020. Board Member Oder observed that the Board should have a special meeting both to expedite the process and out of respect for the members of the public who felt so strongly on this topic that they came out in a group to address the Board. The other members of the Board concurred, and Chair Azevedo will begin immediately to find a convenient time to hold a special meeting in December in order to address the Board’s lighthouse interface.

**ADJOURNMENT: 6:03 P.M.**