

Museum of Vanning and Hall of Fame, Inc.
Executive Committee Minutes
June 18, 2024

The Executive Committee of the Museum of Vanning and Hall of Fame, Inc. held a teleconferencing meeting on June 18, 2024. In attendance were Board Members; Joe Madonia, President; and Lynn Harmonson, Treasurer; Officers of the Corporation; Larry Gibson, Financial Coordinator; Susie Martin, Member Coordinator; Howard Furtak, Advisor; and Bob Bulinda, Senior Advisor.

[This was a combined meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Any motion requiring Board approval was voted on only by Board members.]

Joe Madonia called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM EST.

Lynn made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the meeting held March 13, 2024. Larry seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business

- Susie gave an update on the Hall of Fame voting flyer that was passed out at the Midwest Vans Ltd. Truck-in in May.
 - She went from campsite to campsite explaining the nomination process, and then explaining that you must be a member of the Museum of Vanning and Hall of Fame, Inc. to cast a vote. She also explained that the ballots needed to be turned into one of the members of the Executive Committee, emailed or texted to a member of the committee or via the museumofvanning@gmail.com email, or submitted via the website general contact form since a website nomination mechanism is not yet in place.
 - No ballots have yet come back but she had to leave the truck-in early so she could not collect any while there. Bob, Larry, and Howard were also in attendance at this truck-in, but none received any returned ballots.
 - Howard explained that this was a test run to see how the ballot went over and see if anyone would actually make any nominations. Howard sent his nominations to Susie, who is keeping the list of nominees. So far, Susie said, Howard and Ron Martin are the only two people to return any nominations.
 - Susie said she intends to take the ballot and put in all the vans at the Show-in-shine while at the Nationals® this July in Massachusetts.
 - Howard suggested putting the ballots in the goodie bags instead since not everyone will be in the show & shine.
 - The committee thinks this is a good idea, so Susie will get them printed. Joe is going to check with the National Board to see when the goodie bags will be stuffed. If we can get the ballot to them in time, we will proceed with Howard's recommendation.
 - Larry noted that we can put the nomination and voting procedures on the website as soon as we are sure what we want.
- Larry talked about targeted fundraising and the need for a formal letter to solicit corporate sponsorship for the Museum or for specific Museum events.
 - Discussion was held about what corporations we would solicit. Joe is going to go over a list he has worked with in the past to
 - Howard suggested going to SEMA show exhibitors list to peruse and see who we might want to use. Joe noted that there may be businesses on his list that are out of business. The list needs to be comprehensive, but not too extensive. Executive Committee members will submit a list of

candidates by December at the Christmas Fund raiser. We can then determine the businesses to receive the first run of the letter in January.

- Larry offered to help with the wording of the letter itself, if needed.
- The Charter Club concept was turned over to the Fundraising, Publicity, and Volunteers Committee to work with and produce suggestions as to how to proceed.
- Facility and Collections committee consisting of Bob, Larry, and Susie gave an update on items that have been in progress.
 - Susie has written out the procedure for taking membership applications or renewals from anyone and sent the information to the Executive Committee. The procedure formalizes what we are already doing.
- Inventory will be taken at the Museum in December either before or after the Christmas Fund Raiser. This will include all facilities and the whole collection. The information gathered from the inventory will be used to provide needed detail for the 2023 and 2024 annual reports.
- Fundraising, Publicity, & Volunteers committee consisting of Howard, Bob and Susie gave updates on items in progress Hall of Fame voting as previously discussed.
 - Susie gave a list of ongoing issues being worked on of: ▪ Volunteer Coordinator for when work needs to be conducted at the Museum. Dennis Conko, known as RV, has volunteered to try to get volunteers and will coordinate with Joe about needs and scheduling.
 - Adopt a Van ideas are being kicked around no firm proposals are ready for consideration.
 - Bob is pursuing palm tree adoption. He has been talking to clubs and has some good prospects.
 - Susie has a sample letter for the corporate sponsorship that she has been working on to customize for our specific use. She will work with Larry on finalizing closer to December.
- Structure and Compliance committee consisting of Larry, Susie and Eric gave updates and submitted proposed policies for committee approval. New policies were proposed for:
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Documentation and Retention
 - Policy for Donations
 - These policies were voted on by the Board of Directors and adopted as they were presented. They will be printed and placed in the Museum as well as being posted on the website.
 - Larry also discussed the Annual Report saying that he will have a full outline of the report to the committee to view in December at the Christmas Fund Raiser.
- The meeting calendar was considered as proposed in the agenda by everyone on the committee and Joe asked if the dates seemed to work for everyone.
 - It was agreed that, at this point, the dates are good for the full Committee. Dates are as follows: July 10, 2024, while at the Nationals®; September 18, 2024; December 16, 2024 and after the Christmas eVANT.

New Business

- Larry reported that the first 2024 deposit was made to the Endowment Fund in the amount of \$3,942.60.
 - Part of this amount can be returned to the general fund based upon need. The exact amount eligible for return will have to be confirmed, but the matching funds cannot be used; they must stay in the Endowment Fund. Also, part of the deposit was from lifetime memberships which will stay in the Endowment Fund.
 - Larry reminded everyone that if an emergency were to arise, money can come from the Endowment Fund if it is determined that it is truly necessary.
- Larry told the committee about an interview that he did with Swede, Dave Mengwasser of Central Iowa Vanners.
 - The interview went even better than he first thought it would.
 - He noted that Swede was amazed at the presentation in the “How Vanning Got a Museum” video that Larry made for the Council of Councils. Swede has visited the Museum but had no idea what was involved in creating and maintaining it. He admitted that he got emotional when he was watching the video as he was touched by the effort it has taken to create and maintain the Museum.
 - Larry indicated that he wants to do more of these interviews and get other stories from vanners as soon as time and resources allow.
 - Larry mentioned that he had talked to Lex Linton who has an idea for a parallel project that could be a fund raiser, but that it is not far enough along to discuss at this time.
- Joe discussed the Lifetime member indicator badge.
 - This would be a special badge or shield given to Lifetime members instead of a patch.
 - Joe has a vendor, Reeves Company, who used to do engraved items for him long ago. He contacted them and they are still providing engraving and related business. Joe is having them send some samples of several types of badges so we can determine which we would like to use for the Lifetime membership badge.
 - He would like this to be able to go on a persons’ colors above the previous patches received as a member of the Museum.
- Joe discussed the setup for the National Van Truck-in®.
 - There will be several tables of items for sale to benefit the Museum. In the past, Susie has raised about \$3000 by selling this inventory.
 - Joe is sending his “Panic in Detroit” van filled with eight large totes and some boxes to Massachusetts for these tables. He also asked Howard if he could bring some of the stuff he was donating to the Museum.
- New logo items will also be available for sale at the Museum booth, including coffee mugs, a shot glass in two colors, new cutout magnate, tumblers, and a Christmas ornament. More banners have been ordered and all the other merchandise will be available as well.
 - Larry noted that any new logo items should be posted on the website gift shop as soon as possible.

- Joe informed us that he has one thousand Christmas Fund Raiser flyers to bring to the Nationals® for distribution. Eight hundred of these will go in the Nationals® goodie bags. The others will be available at the Museum booth and whatever is left at the end will be distributed to the committee members present.
- Joe discussed the artwork for the Christmas Fund Raiser saying that Susie wanted to have next year's flyer ready to hand out at the actual event this year if possible.
 - Everyone agreed that was a good idea. Joe will talk with the artist, Richard Don Linkel, to see if he can have that done but he needs ideas on what van to use on the flyer. Previously, he has used all the Ford, Chevy, and Dodge vans, but this year he used Greg Cooper's van, which is a Japanese van. In the artwork, Santa is trying to figure out how to get in the van with all the presents.
- Joe updated the committee on the replacement of Narragansett's Vans' palm tree that died for and the purchase of four other trees that he will receive in September. One of the trees is sponsored already by New England Council for \$650.00. That is the money that was used to buy all five trees. These are the trees for which Bob is working to get sponsors. Don Noone, called Joe saying that once the books from Vantasia truck-in have been settled, they will consider sponsoring a tree. Bob informed us that he also talked to Steve Smith about Southern Ohio Van Council sponsoring a tree. Smitty did not act interested. Bob will continue to pursue others for sponsorship.
- Larry gave us an update on Venmo saying we now have a Venmo account for the Museum.
 - The Museum website cannot, at this time, support the Venmo payments. Firespring, our web provider, is considering updating their payment gateway but we do not know when that decision will be made.
 - Meanwhile, we can take Venmo (and PayPal) payments in person. Larry will resend the information used for those payments to the Executive Committee members.
 - If it is determined that Firespring will not update their payment gateway, Larry will develop a work-around for the website, but that will have some limitations.
- Joe mentioned that we need to do some picture updates on the website.
 - Larry said we could get new ones while in Florida in December plus search our photo archives and then do the updates.
- Joe discussed a lady in Florida named Maribeth.
 - Her boyfriend plays in one of the bands at the Christmas Fund Raiser. Joe and Bonnie would like to have Maribeth help them prepare items for sale in the Museum gift shop. She may also be able to help Bonnie with other chores. The Museum online sales have increased quickly when items from the Dale Tess collection were posted and will hopefully increase again when we post the new items.
 - Lynn made a motion to try to get Maribeth to join us and Larry seconded, though Larry pointed out that the motion was not needed for Joe to proceed.

- Joe is looking at “down the road” and wanted to know the committees’ thoughts on someday stopping sales of BJM’s items and only having the Museum stock to sell at truck-ins, etc.
 - To do this, he would need to liquidate BMJ’s stock and would like to know the committees’ thoughts on the Museum buying it from him. He realizes that many others have donated their things to the Museum, but he just cannot afford to do that. He said he could look for other interested buyers as well.
 - Susie said we would need an inventory of what he is talking about as well as an estimated value. Larry confirmed that this information would be needed for budgeting.
- Joe discussed a project that he and Howard have been working on for the Museum. He wants to create and sell Vanopoly game made.
 - The game would be all van related version of the classic Monopoly game with van related names and pictures. Each property would be sponsored for different amounts yet to be determined. Proceeds would go to the Museum; sponsors would receive no financial return. The cost is \$10,000 up front for which the Museum would get fifty games at \$20 each. We would sell the games not to just vanners, but also to specialty game collectors at other outlets including online at Ebay, Market Place, and other sites for \$50 to \$60 each.
 - Joe wants to have all the money up front before submitting the game to the maker. We would also need to create all the names and sayings, plus the artwork and much more for the box and board. The card sayings would need to be van related as well. This will take a lot of time and effort, but it is doable in Joe’s and Howard’s opinion. Joe says there are a ton of Monopoly collectors that will pay for this game because it is another customized monopoly, although we cannot call it “Monopoly” because that is a patented name.
 - Howard has already sold the Electric Co and Water Co for \$500 each to vanners that own campgrounds and has another promise from a club for a property for \$250. Susie has made a spreadsheet that contains all the property names, card sayings, and every piece of the game that could possibly be sponsored. If sold at her prices, which are probably incorrect and too low, we would have more than the \$10,000.
 - Joe says more discussion will take place on this as time goes on. This is not a quick endeavor; however, he does not want someone else to “beat” us to the mark.
 - Howard is working to get an old Monopoly board and take it apart so that we can market it better.
 - Joe thinks we need to sit down with it at Christmas and discuss the board, box, and everything in more detail.

The next Executive Committee meeting was set for July 10, 2024, while attending the National Van Truck-in® in Greenfield, MA.

The meeting was adjourned by Joe at 5:01 PM EST.