

Museum of Vanning and Hall of Fame, Inc.
Minutes of Board Meeting
February 13, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Museum of Vanning and Hall of Fame, Inc. held a teleconferencing meeting on February 13, 2024. In attendance were Board Members; Joe Madonia, President, Bonnie Madonia, Secretary, Lynn Harmonson, Treasurer, as well as Officers of the Corporation; Larry Gibson, Financial Coordinator, Susie Martin, Member Coordinator. Also in attendance were Howard Furtak, Fundraising Advisor, and Eric Walker, Advisor to the Board.

[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 3:07 PM EST.

Larry made a motion to wave the reading of the minutes of the meeting held January 10, 2024. Howard seconded the motion. The board passed the motion.

Joe introduced to the Executive Committee Eric Walker as an additional advisor to help with ideas and thoughts to further our mission. Eric is from Kinston, IL and comes with extensive knowledge in the automotive industry as well as involvement with other museums. Although he is not a vanner, has never been to a truck-in, and never been a part of any van group, he does visit the museum as often as possible. He loves the museum and does own a van. He is also a big Mopar guy. Joe asked Eric to become an advisor to the Museum because of his unique background.

Old Business:

- A simplified budget has been put on hold until later, possibly June.
 - Bonnie is trying to get some things together to help with this but has some other deadlines that must be met first.
 - We do know that the operating budget is around \$30,000 per year.
- The endowment fund has a current balance of about \$75,000.
 - An upcoming donation by a contributor will total \$12,000; \$3,000 to the Endowment Fund, \$5,000 to pay Joe a stipend at mid-year plus another \$7,000 for operating expenses.
- The first brochure "Meet the Curator" has been sent to the printer and should be received by Susie somewhere around February 20, 2024.
 - When Susie receives them, she will then forward part of them to Howard. If not, she will priority mail them to Las Vegas for the Council of Councils meeting.
 - ****NOTE:** There could be an issue with the brochure. It was set up to print on 8.5" x 14" (legal size) paper but the printer may have printed 8.5" x 11" (letter size) instead. If printing is too small, we will ask for them to be reprinted to the 8.5" x 14" paper. If this happens, they will not be available for the Council of Councils meeting.
- Susie has the new computer and software ready for shipment to the Museum as soon as two items arrive from Amazon – a cable for to enable the mouse to be recharged separately from the keyboard and a one terabyte USB thumb drive for the transfer of files from the old computer to the new computer.
 - Said files are to be stored in the cloud moving forward. This will enable the files to seamlessly transfer to new systems.
 - Susie will ship the computer no later than Friday, February 16, 2024.

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- Larry nearly has his PowerPoint presentation ready for the Council of Councils meeting.
 - The presentation is between 15 to 20 minutes long and will tell the story of how Vanning got a museum.
 - Larry will talk to Joe to let him know what the presentation will entail.
 - Howard is going to video the presentation so that we may make it available on the website and YouTube.
 - Joe will follow Larry with an annual update of the improvements made at the Museum and to announce the new membership types and pricing.
- March 1, 2024, the new membership pricing will be updated on the website and new flyers/applications will be distributed from that point forward.
 - Susie will send out notices to all members and new invoices will be sent to members due in April all with the new pricing and an explanation.
 - When Joe arrives in Las Vegas for the Council of Councils meeting, he will begin announcing a “Fire Sale” for those members and nonmembers who would like to renew or join the museum membership at the current prices.
 - This “Fire Sale” will only be good until Saturday night, March 2, 2024.
- The Board asked Howard to brainstorm and come up with a plan of how to decide how the Charter Club membership will work, i.e., based on a number or based on a percentage and how we can monitor it.
 - Howard suggested that it be something like a certificate or plate to be put on a trophy at the museum.
- Targeted fundraising was discussed.
 - Question from Howard: “What happened to Quigley?” Quigley used to be a corporate sponsor of and attendee of the Tax Relief Show.
 - Joe responded explaining that someone from Quigley had family in the Tampa Bay area and used to come to the Tax Relief Show for about three years, and although he has sent the same invitation, no one has returned in the last two years.
 - A more intensive inquiry needs to be made as their donation was substantial.
 - Eric suggested we seek out businesses and offer to use their logos on future brochures, tee shirts, banners, and other articles as well as in social media such as Instagram and Facebook to gain their sponsorship.
 - Joe explained that, largely because of the historical influence of the 2% movement, many vanners frown on using these types of sponsorships because they think it is “giving in” to commercialism.
 - Larry noted that this is not a truck-in, this is for business purposes and therefore should be exempt from those considerations.
- The Celebration Garden is undergoing a change.
 - After 10 months and discussions with six contractors Joe found a competent 4-man crew to redo the drainage and complete the garden.
 - Blank bricks will be laid as place holders which can be taken up and replaced with engraved ones as new brick orders come in, thus reducing future installation costs.

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- The garden will now be the length of the full back porch.
- Joe has also located a wholesale company to buy new palm trees for \$75.
 - We then sell to interested sponsors for \$500, which covers the price of planting and leaves a good profit for the museum.
 - New England Van Council has a request in for a tree now.
- Joe will be doing a blog shortly regarding the Celebration Garden and things that he and Scotty completed during Scotty's vacation time at the Museum.
- Joe discussed property improvements as well.
 - Improvements are being made as needed.
 - Until the Museum is actively planning a move, changes must be made to keep the interest of the public and keep people wanting to visit the museum.
 - Since that move is not within sight, Joe is going to keep making displays and changing things up appropriately.
 - He is planning a display for the Veterans tribute in the upstairs area as well as expanding the van shop area.
 - The van shop has turned out to be a key area of interest for most visitors.
- Joe also talked to Bob Bulinda about joining the Executive Committee as an advisor.
 - Bob is very enthusiastic about the idea and will join us for the next meeting.
 - Larry asked if Joe inquired about Bob's area of expertise.
 - Joe replied that Bob worked in the trophy business for 30 years then another 15 years fixing printers.
 - Bob and Patti have actively helped at the Nats and Christmas Fund Raiser for many years.
- Lifetime Memberships were discussed as to what to do with the payments since this is a one-time investment only payment for the person(s) involved.
 - Susie suggested that 90% of the payments be invested in the endowment fund to grow, while the 10% be put in the General Fund for immediate use.
 - The Board approved this arrangement by unanimous consent.
 - By growing the endowment fund, the museum will eventually be able to pay operating costs from the fund instead of asking for donations. This eventually could allow for paid staff.

New Business:

- Improvements to the current building were brought to attention and discussed.
 - Joe indicated that no real improvements pertaining to the actual building need to be made, but he would like to just finish the main flooring.
 - This has been on his wish list for many years and is the only thing left unfinished in his eyes as far as the building itself goes.
 - He estimates it to cost around \$5,000. No further action was taken.
 - Regarding displays, there are four new display cases left with one being taken for \$850 by Geoff Koome, Ontario Federation of Vanners in Ontario Canada. but the money has not yet been received.

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- With the Veterans tribute, expansion of the Van shop, and the new display case, the Museum will be full.
 - There is only about a 10' x 10' area upstairs for the new displays.
- Larry mentioned that we have not done anything with the Hall of Fame part of our name.
 - Joe agreed and wanted to move forward with that somehow but has not had time to think about how to set it up and accomplish the goal.
 - Howard discussed how the Rock and Roll Museum in Illinois does their voting and calculates winners.
 - Eric discussed how another museum he is involved with does their voting as well.
 - Larry suggested Howard form a [ad hoc] subcommittee of 3 people, including Virtual Vanner (Doug Nykanen) as an ad hoc advisor, to brainstorm and come up with a viable solution for ballots and guidelines.
 - The discussion was tabled until Howard could reach out to Doug.
- Maintenance of the vans donated to the Museum was raised by Susie.
 - At the Christmas fund raiser this year, one of the vans needed a new battery and solenoid.
 - Bob Bulinda paid for them this year but this needs to be addressed.
 - Susie suggested a separate fund be started to support these vehicles to maintain them and keep them in showable condition.
 - Eric suggested a “sponsor a van” type financing mechanism be put in place.
 - These vans currently have no plates or insurance on them. Running conditions have been maintained, but it would be illegal to have them on the streets or at shows away from the museum.
 - Joe said he cannot except any more vehicles no matter how nice they may be because he has nowhere to store them out of the weather.
 - He has temporarily given up his workshop and carport now so that the vans will be covered, and his own daily driver is sitting without cover.
 - Eric asked if there was a policy in place to receive items with the understanding that said item may be sold at such a time that the item is no longer of interest or too costly for the museum to maintain or so that something new could be obtained.
 - Joe noted that this has always been Museum policy. Joe
- The motorcross van was again discussed.
 - Joe is trying to reach the person who donated the van to discuss what should happen with it as the museum is unable to restore it.
 - Joe also noted that the motorcross van, while not a show van, was a spot-on example of one of the early roots of vanning – motorbikes in the desert, which makes any decision to dispose of it all the more difficult.
- Howard is donating a special memento for each new or renewing Heavy Trucker membership.
 - This is being done to add more benefits to this membership level in hopes of reducing the temptation for Heavy Truckers to become Lifetime members.
 - Larry will include this benefit in the membership application description and resend the new membership applications to the group.

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- Joe discussed the purchase of a storage shed.
 - Joe has found a metal 10' x 12' shed that is hurricane durable that he is ready to purchase, but he is short \$2000.
 - Howard is donating \$1000, and he has the \$850 coming from Jeff [who?] at some point, but he doesn't have the money to actually purchase the shed.
 - There are at least 2 two large collections coming to the museum this spring and there is no room to store them.
- Larry mentioned the fact that we need to put together an annual report, which should include the treasurer's report.
 - The treasurer's report needs to be done by mid-April along with taxes, but the annual report can take as long as we need.
 - Also needed in the annual report is an inventory of all Museum assets.
 - Most of the collection cannot be valued; however, whatever can be valued must be included in the inventory.
 - Joe was troubled by the immensity of this report.
 - Eric explained that it really is not that big of a deal to put together.
 - It should include this financial information, but it should also highlight the changes made throughout the year, other benchmark information such as how many visitors you had, and a list of goals you would like to meet going forward.
 - By doing this year after year, you can accumulate data for comparison.
 - Larry indicated that for our first report, an approximate number of displays, etc., could be obtained from the detailed pictures that are available if necessary.
 - Susie indicated that there is already a procedure in place for the merchandise sold in the gift shop.
- Joe announced added items to be sold with the museum logo.
 - Banners, coffee cups, and tumblers are among the novel items.
 - The museum patch needs to be reordered as we are very low on inventory for them and vanners love patches.

Next meeting was set for March 13, 2024

Meeting was adjourned by Joe at 5:14 PM EST