



Friday Update

Week of June 5, 2022

Kern County Museum; Mike McCoy - Executive Director

Reminder: A strategic planning session and board meeting lite will be held on Monday June 13th at 12:00 Noon in historic Standard School. Lunch will be served. Expect the meeting to go to about 4:00 PM. Agenda, updated Strategic Plan and May minutes are attached to this Update. Sent out early for your review and perusal.

Windfall: The Museum had an unexpected turn of financial luck with a new partnership with a charter school. Our membership coordinator Madison Dowell and Michelle have been working hard negotiating a large deal with the school. We got the big check on Tuesday! Michael Stevenson will share the details at the Board meeting. A round of applause to Maddy and Michelle for working out the deal. Wow!

New Event: We hosted the Ronald McDonald House "Walk for Kids" last Saturday morning. The event brings the community in with minimum pledges of \$100 per participant. The event organizers were thrilled with moving to the Village and we liked the new event. By 1:30 PM the grounds were deserted and all of the litter was bagged and in dumpsters. And the weather was just right. Thank you Brenna!

New Old Event: After a 10 year hiatus, the *Frontier Days* event sponsored by the Church of Latter Day Saints returns to Pioneer Village this Saturday. The popular event was staged at our museum for many years but moved to Pyles Boy's Camp. Thanks to some very positive negotiating with local church leaders and Brenna, this family friendly event is back. Hopefully there will be no smoking, cussing, drinking or fighting.

Thursday Night: The Jim Burke company party was held Thursday night in Bandstand Green. Music, food and well organized. Our new corporate rate sheet is paying off !

All Staff Meeting: About a dozen staff members gathered in Standard School on Tuesday for tacos and updates on new projects and programs. We have a number of new staff members and our summer research fellows. We discussed new projects and programs. It was great to get everyone together. We will meet again in December as a whole staff. Our Lead Team meets twice a month or more often as needed.

Summer Camp: We had very thin signups for our Discovery summer camp. We are going with a one week camp at the end of June with a focus on Kern County history. Buena Vista Museum just announced they cancelled their camp due to poor signups and are going with “Super Saturdays” instead. People are still reluctant to mix and mingle their kids. Thank you to Nancy for organizing. We will be back strong in 2023.

Old Shop: We have cleared out the interior of the Native American building. We are pulling in the last of the written bids on the project for the review and approval of the Finance Committee and Board. We have made some cost saving decisions that really have improved the bottom line. We have \$155,000 in the bank and another \$10,000 enroute from a Google grant. Bid walks were held this week with flooring, display showcases, arts designer, architect, electrical and HVAC vendors.

Other Construction: Eddie just finished the Fairhaven Pump House restoration and is now starting on the Photo Studio. On deck is the Santa Fe Caboose. These are “paint and scrape” projects with some minor carpentry repair and a lot of primer and silicone. Because of the hot weather window and short staffing, we are bringing in Robert Hernandez to paint Weller Ranch exterior. Robert did Lori Brock, Pyrenees Bakery and St. John’s Church. He is fast, clean and his bids are discounted. The Weller Ranch interior is a ton of wall paper. That is on hold until we sort out all of the artifacts inside with our historian. We are also working on finishing up the Sheep Camp with a sign, fire ring and display case. Constant improvement is our motto!

BBA: Thank you to Frank Wooldridge for agreeing to represent the museum at the Beautiful Bakersfield Awards on June 25th. We were nominated in the Arts and Culture Category for the Mission Bank Neon Courtyard project. Fingers crossed!

Security: Good meeting with the BPD on Tuesday. Our suspected perp who had been arrested for theft on our property and caught trespassing by our security is back in jail. He is on active probation and was arrested burglarizing a doctor’s office on 34th Street. BPD said city code enforcement cleared out more than 80 river encampments just between Manor Street and the Golden State Highway over the last two weeks. 25% of the transients who were cited for illegal camping also had active arrest warrants.

Vacation: I will be on vacation from June 23rd to July 4th. In my absence Brenna will be running the circus. If you have a question email her at bebe@kerncountymuseum.org. Susan and I rented an apartment in Paris for two weeks of museums, antiquing, dining and wine...and not necessarily in that order.

Have a nice warm weekend!

Mike