

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 18, 2016 @ 4:30 p.m.**

Present: Anne Belanger, Claudia Chapman, Tuffy Cross, Margaret Henschel, Jim Johnson, Steve Lappan, Chris Lombardo, Don MacMaster, Michelle Miller, Gregg Resnick, Judy Suszek, Kristin Werth, Carol Witherbee and Janet Young--also Christine Witulski, Executive Director

Absent--Excused: Mike Ableidinger, Ann Diamond, Dan Stevens and Kristin Werth

Called to Order: President Steve Lappan called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in the Planetarium. Board Members were treated to a sneak peek of the new planetarium equipment capabilities with a preview of three short programs. The Regular Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes: Gregg Resnick moved to accept the September Minutes, Carol Witherbee supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Judy Suszek reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which is now in a new format to align with the Cultural Data Project reporting, the auditor reports and grant reporting. No questions were posed and the report will be filed as presented.

Director's Report:

- Executive Director Christine Witulski submitted her report in writing, which is filed with the Minutes.
- ED Witulski updated on the Capital Campaign--it is pretty much complete at this point.
- The monthly agenda, minutes, treasurer's report, executive director's report and additional informational items will now be online for view and the ED will have a computer at Board meetings for viewing rather than printing copies for each Board Member and keeping notebooks. A paper copy of the agenda will be available for Board Members at the meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

Governance: Nothing to report

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Katherine V: Two background buildings are now covered with barn board. On November 1 the background shed roof will be started. 55 visitors toured the boat in October.

Chinook: The first draft of the first part of the grant proposal is written (the story of what we want) we are asking for \$250,000 to cover the first two years of a four-year project. After we have the results of the large grant, we will attempt smaller venues; i.e., GM for engine rebuild, etc. The website is a tremendous help with the linking

capability.

John Schmidt is excited to partner with the Museum to develop a video display of what it was like to be aboard the Chinook, endangered species, etc.--all meeting the school curriculum. The goal is to have interpretive signage linking the Fisheries Exhibit with the Native America Exhibit.

Planetarium: The Planetarium upgrade is complete.

Fine Art: The Dali Exhibit is down and a Juried Art Exhibit will be on display through the Season on Light, which will begin with a kick-off event on November 19.

Old Business:

- **Doug Bliss Maintenance Contract:** Tabled
- **Meridian Contract:** The contract is signed and weather permitting the project will be completed this fall; if not it will be spring.
- **Donor Wall:** A committee is in conversation with the provider--the budget for the project is not to exceed \$5,000.

New Business:

- **Setting New Admission for Planetarium: Recommend \$5 per seat:**
A motion was made by Jim Johnson, supported by Janet Young, to raise the admission price for the planetarium to \$5 per seat. All Ayes. Motion carried. (ED Witulski will research fees charged by other facilities for school field trips and make a recommendation for a revised field trip fee schedule. The Board will act on the recommendation via email. She will also research the donor level to receive free admission to the Planetarium.
- **Edward Jones--Simple IRA Investment (added agenda item):** Tabled

Adjourn: President Lappan adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by Michelle Miller, Acting Secretary