

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 15, 2021 via Skype**

**Board Members Present:** Claudia Chapman, Jim Conboy, Jim Johnson, Michelle Miller, Diane Speer, Janet Young, Sue Stender, Marie Fielder, Jean Thomas, Gary Goren and Mike Beaulac.

**Others Present:** Executive Director Chris Witulski

**Absent:** Clarence Cross (excused), Judy Suszek (excused) and Mike Ableidinger

**Call to Order:** President Michelle Miller called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. via Skype.

**Minutes:** Janet Young made a motion to accept the May 18, 2021 minutes. Second by Mike Beaulac. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Sue Stender presented a financial overview of fiscal year June 2020-May 2021 for the annual meeting. That same report was accepted for the monthly meeting and filed as presented.

**Director's Report:** ED Chris Witulski told the board about a new problem that cropped up recently with the HVAC system. Two sensors have since been replaced, correcting the problem. She said the new updated HVAC equipment is expected in October. She also reported on the status of the Log Cabin renovations. The logs are expected for delivery at the end of the week with work then to commence. Her full Director's Report is available online at the museum's website.

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

**Governance:** Nothing else new to report following the election of 6 Board of Trustees members at the annual meeting held prior to the regular monthly meeting.

**Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit:** Jim Johnson reported that the museum is in good standing for filing an application for a DNR Invasive Species Grant Program. He also briefly discussed another grant possibility.

**Katherine V:** ED Chris Witulski reported that Tuffy's crew has been constructing a boardwalk.

**Native American Exhibit:** Another meeting of the Advisory Committee is slated for June 22. ED Chris Witulski said the museum's collection of paintings by Native American artists will be discussed during the meeting. She said the museum has approximately 30 such pieces.

**Fine Art Committee:** Jean Thomas reported that the new gallery is open and looks fabulous. A catalog of the pieces/artists featured in the current exhibit was produced in-house and will be available to visitors for a nominal fee.

**Collections:** Nothing new to report

**Old Business:** Nothing

**New Business:**

**Reprint of "The Town That Wouldn't Die" book:** ED Chris Witulski proposed requesting an expenditure of \$16,936 from the Park Family Fund to have 1,500 copies of Robert Haltiner's "The That Wouldn't Die" reprinted by Allegra in Alpena. Gary Goren suggested adding a one-page forward to the book that would in part recognize the Park Family Fund contribution to the reprint project. He agreed to

help with the creation of such a forward. Jim Conboy made a motion to request funds from the Park Family Fund for the reprinting of "The Town That Wouldn't Die" and a possible one-page forward in a hardcover edition. Second by Jim Johnson. All in favor. Motion carried.

**2021-2022 Annual Budget:** ED Chris Witulski reported that she will be working with Accountant Marie Williams to craft the 2021-2022 annual budget to be presented to the board at the July meeting.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Speer  
Board Secretary