

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting
June July 2018

1. Reaccreditation:

Creating Action Plan to Submit to AAM Reaccreditation Board.

- a. We are waiting for a reply from AAM.

2. Staffing:

a. Collection

- i. Maggie has been at the museum for over 4 weeks now.
- ii. We are working on putting into place proper procedures and policies.
- iii. We are also working on messaging for the community concerning our new procedures.
- iv. Maggie is educating staff, board, and community on proper procedures to ensure the safety of our collections.
- v. Maggie is also working on familiarizing herself with our collections, conducting condition reports, inputting data into PastPerfect.

b. Education Outreach Coordinator:

- i. Amanda Kucharek was hired as the Education Coordinator and started full time July 16th.

c. Planetarium Coordinator:

- i. Johnathan Winckowski was hired as the Planetarium Coordinator in July and will start July 16th.

3. Facilities:

- a. Susan Edwards from R.S. Scott Associates spent approximately four hours at the museum on May 9th. Susan submitted an estimate for what it would cost to preparing the architectural drawings to renovate the museum for better collection storage areas. Susan will attend the July board meeting to answer any questions.
- b. Bliss Painting provided a quote for \$5,968.44 to do some of the repairs needed on the Spratt Church. The Besser Museum received a total of \$5,475.00 in donations from Spratt Church members in September 2017 for the continued restoration of the Spratt Church. Bliss will start repairs in August.
- c. Besser Museum received several bids for consideration to paint the front of the Spratt Church. Bids are available on the website on the Board of Trustees page. The paint on the front of the church is chipping and there are a few missing boards.
- d. We purchased the new lawnmower and edger.
- e. See Facility Report submitted by Matt Klimczak

4. Native American Exhibit Project:

- a. Good Design Group is working closely with the committee to provide conceptual exhibit plans for the Native American exhibit based on committee input.
- b. I attended the U.P. History Conference in St. Ignace in June. Most of the workshops pertained to Native American history and culture. I was able to make some connections for our project.
- c. I will be attending a Native American Cultural Summer Camp in Sidnaw, Michigan (U.P.) on July 18th and 19th. Another networking opportunity and research for our exhibit.

5. Fisheries Exhibit: The committee is meeting and work is ongoing.

- a. Great Lakes Fisheries Trust awarded the remaining \$1,000 for the GLFT grant.
- b. We are hoping to haul the Kahlenberg Engine back to the Besser Museum this summer. Tom Moran said MIW will assist the museum with this transfer when ready. Tuffy plans to build a structure around the engine for protection and preservation.
- c. Tuffy is continuing to work on the Katherine V exhibit, including some interpretation.

6. Art:

- a. **NEMAG: Whatever the Weather** art exhibit is the Trelfa Gallery until the end of summer. NEMAG's annual Really Big Art sale starts Saturday, June 30th during Log Cabin Day and will run through July 28th. The Besser Museum receives 30% of all sales.
- b. **Juried Art Exhibit** is scheduled for October. Brochures will be mailed out at the end of May. Erv Lewandowski will be this year's juror. The opening reception is set for October 27th and the exhibit will run through December 31, 2018.
- c. **Drawing Classes with Erv Lewandowski:** Erv will be hosting a series of drawing class at the Besser Museum this summer. Brochures will be mailed out with the Juried Art brochures.

7. Special Events:

- a. **Mindful Movement at the Museum: Yoga**
 - i. Paige Edwards Trisko will continue to hold yoga sessions at the museum after the July. The sessions will continue to be held on Tuesdays at 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. for \$10 per person.
- b. **Log Cabin Day:** hosted over 300 visitors.
- c. **Fall Harvest Fossil Fest:** Planning has begun.
- d. **Season of Light – Christmas Exhibit:** Planning has begun.

8. Exhibits:

- a. Ted Fines will be exhibiting his photography in the Trelfa gallery in October.
- b. John Benson is still working on building display area for the wildlife collection.

9. Marketing:

- a. I still need to work with Judy Suszek to budget this for next fiscal year.