

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 25, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.**

*Our mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit authentic articles and artifacts of art, history, and science to inspire curiosity for all ages, foster community pride, and cultivate personal legacy.*

**Board Members Present:** President, Gary Goren, **Vice President,** Mike Beaulac, **Secretary,** Ashley Peterson, **Treasurer,** Sue Stender, Michelle Miller, Claudia Chapman, Tuffy Cross, Jim Johnson, Jon Gougeon, Janet Young, Dan Florip, Julie Austin, Sara Winter, and Brian Bartosh  
**Absent:**

**1) Call To Order at 4:56 by President, Gary Goren**

**2) Review May 21, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes for approval (action item)**

The Board minutes were reviewed. The motion to approve minutes was made by Dan Florip with support from Claudia Chapman. All in favor. Motion carried.

**3) TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer's report regarding May 2024 financials was included in the board packet and completed by Sue Stender. Sue Stender discussed key points and documents were filed as reported.

**4) Reports to the Board:**

- a) **Director's Report:** Full report was submitted and accessible online at the museum website.
  - a. Log Cabin Day event Saturday, June 29.
  - b. Museum is having issues with the cash register and will need to order a new one.
  - c. Local cleaning company volunteered to clean all the historic buildings in preparation for Log Cabin Day.

**5) AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

a. **GOVERNANCE REPORT:**

- i. (Dan Florip) No report

b. **GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:**

i. **Chinook Project:** (Jim Johnson report)

- 1. Jim Johnson has been working on a video production with Grand Vallery University Intern for the Chinook exhibit. There will be a total of 8 videos when completed. A TV monitor will be mounted on the boardwalk outside of the Chinook where visitors can sit down and watch what it was like working on the Chinook on Lake Huron.

ii. **Katherine V:** (Tuffy Cross report)

- 1. Tuffy's crew of volunteers are building a service dock around the backside of the Chinook. This dock will be used only by staff for service and will provide a level of safety for visitors walking around on the Chinook.
- 2. The lumber has been ordered and delivered and the crew will start building soon.

c. **DISCOVER NORTHEAST MICHIGAN HISTORY:** (Mike Beaulac)

- i. See the Director's detailed report

1. Mike Beaulac reported that there is a lot happening in the past month and Besser Museum now has weekly communication with the Split Rock Studios project manager, Niki.
2. Time has been spent getting familiar with the new Nike and making sure things are not getting lost in the transition, since Mike Otis left the position of project manager a few months ago.
3. There is meeting June 26<sup>th</sup> with Kanarr Builders to discuss materials and building schedules.
4. Janet Young briefly updated the Board on the researching and writing she has been doing for the Anishinaabe exhibit.

d. **FINE ART COMMITTEE:** No report

e. **COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE:** (Claudia Chapman): artifact accession/deaccession proposal

- i. Claudia proposed four items for accession. Motion to approve by Claudia, with support from Janet Young. All in favor. Motion carried.

**6) Old Business: 2024-2025 Budget approval**

- a. Museum accountant, Marie Williams, arrived at the meeting at 5:15 pm. to present the budget and answer questions. Marie went through the budget and explained the complexity of the museum's budget due to the fact that the museum has restricted and non-restricted revenue and expenses. Marie explained the Cost of Goods line items and tracking the capital projects that will be amortized over the course of several years, verse the line items for operational expenses. The Besser Museum is in good financial standing. President, Gary Goren asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 fiscal budget. Sue Stender moved to adopt the budget with support from Mike Beaulac. All in favor. Motion carried.

**7) New Business:**

**8) Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn by Jim Johnson and supported by Mike Beaulac. The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.