

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan Board of Trustees
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

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.

Present Board Members: President, Gary Goren, Vice President, Mike Beaulac, Treasurer, Sue Stender, Michelle Miller (virtual), Claudia Chapman, Tuffy Cross, Jim Johnson, Janet Young (virtual), Dan Florip, Julie Austin, Sara Winter, and Brian Bartosh

Absent: Ashley Peterson (unexcused), Jon Gougeon (excused)

1) Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by President, Gary Goren at 4:34 p.m.

2) Review December 19, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes for approval (*action item*)

Board minutes from December 19, 2023, were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Janet Young with support from Tuffy Cross. All in favor. Motion carried.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT: (Sue Stender)

The written treasurer's report for December was presented by Treasurer, Sue Stender. Report was filed as written.

4) Reports to the Board:

a) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Full report submitted.

1. **AAM progress report** is due March 1. Work is being done to complete the report on time.
2. **DNEMH Fundraising report:**
 - i. The end of the year fundraising campaign has generated \$22,235.
 - ii. Approximately \$400,000 is needed to reach the \$1.8 million goal.
3. The DD1 response was submitted to Split Rock Studios on January 8th. We are waiting for response back from them.

b) **AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

- **GOVERNANCE REPORT:** Election of Officers
 1. Brian Bartosh put forth the slate of officers for 2024:
 - Gary Goren, President
 - Mike Beaulac, V.P.
 - Ashley Peterson, Secretary
 - Sue Stender, Treasurer

Jim Johnson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

- **GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:**

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

- i. Chinook Shelter is coming along.
 - ii. Jim J. is working with Brandon Schroeder on the Great Lakes Science in the Classroom project. Videos will be produced from the Grand Valley project Jim worked on with John Schmidt. These videos will be incorporated into the new exhibit.
 - iii. Jim Johnson is updating the conceptual exhibit plans to submit to Good Design. Jim will arrange a meeting with Tuffy Cross, E.D. Chris Witulski, and Matt Klimczak to discuss his conceptual updates.
- **Katherine V:** (Tuffy Cross report) Katherine V is closed. Tuffy is taking photos of the Chinook building project on a regular basis.

- **DISCOVER NORTHEAST MICHIGAN HISTORY:** (Mike Beaulac)
 - See Director’s written report.
 - DD1 Design response was submitted to SRS on 1/8/24. Meetings will be scheduled with SRS to discuss responses and next steps.
 - This phase of the project is getting more detailed and refined as content is developing.
 - Artifacts and objects are still being identified to go into the exhibit areas.
- **FINE ART COMMITTEE:** Exhibits have been set. No report
- **COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE:** (Claudia Chapman): Committee did not meet this month. No report.

5) Old Business:

- a. Revised Five Year Strategic Plan 2024 – 2029.
The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan. Brian Bartosh stated that the timeline needs to be adjusted and more a vision needs to be cast of projects five to ten years out. Brian will lead a strategic planning conversation with an ad-hoc committee. Dan Florip, Jim Johnson, Mike Beaulac, and Gary Goren will serve on that committee.

6) New Business:

- a. The Board decided to create an ad-hoc committee to create an RFP for our website/rebranding needs. The ad-hoc committee will Carol Bobolts website proposal along with the three web proposals received to date. The committee may also choose to solicit other proposals.

7) Announcements:

- a. **Sunday, January 28th at 3pm**, the Besser Museum will have a short film included in the Thunder Bay Film Festival. *A Fishing Legacy – Stories from Lake Huron* produced by Gary Goren using the raw footage from the LeBlance interviews shot by Zack Irving in 2019.

8) Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Tuffy Cross, supported by Brian Bartosh. Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next meeting is February 20, 2024.