

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 15, 2025 @ 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:** Treasurer, Sue Stender, Gary Goren, Michelle Miller, Claudia Chapman, Tuffy Cross, Jon Gougeon, Janet Young, Dan Florip, Sara Winter

**Board Members Absent:** President, Mike Beaulac, Vice President, Ashley Peterson, Secretary, Jim Johnson, Julie Austin, Brian Bartosh (all excused)

**Staff Present:** Sarah Honeycut, Matt Klimczak

**1) Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm by Gary Goren in the chair by unanimous consent, with Dan Florip acting as secretary.

**2) Review March 18, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes for approval**

It was moved by Janet Young and seconded by Tuffy Cross to approve the minutes as written. All in favor. Motion carried.

**3) TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Sue Stender)

- a. Treasurer's report on March 2025 financials. The treasurer's report was filed as submitted.

**4) Reports to the Board:**

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

Sarah Honeycut and Matt Klimczak fielded questions in the Director's absence.

Matt Klimczak gave a brief report regarding the latest glitches with the planetarium video software.

a. Field Trip Season has started.

b. Alpena Flyer reader rails are almost complete.

Dan Florip inquired of Sarah Honeycut as to whether a correction to the Charles Henry Law Office reader rail is in the works.

c. FY 2023-2024 audit should be complete by the end of April.

b) **AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

• **GOVERNANCE REPORT:** (Dan Florip)

An application for a board seat has been received from Linda Baker. We'll still need three additional board members by June.

• **GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:**

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

Written report submitted by Jim Johnson.

b. **Katherine V:** (Tuffy Cross)

Tuffy Cross reported various levels of standing water under the *Chinook* and the

*Katherine V*, now dissipated. Weather forced cancellation of the outdoor portion of a field trip to the Museum. Both boats are now open for the season.

- **DISCOVER NORTHEAST MICHIGAN HISTORY: Phase 2:** (Mike Beaulac)

No report.

Museum is waiting to hear on the results of the community museum grant application (expected announcement in May).

- **FINE ART COMMITTEE:**

No report.

- **COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE:** (Claudia Chapman)

It was moved by Claudia Chapman and seconded by Janet Young to accept seven items as presented into the Museum's permanent collection. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### 5) **Old Business:**

- a. A Strategic Planning - Website/Marketing ad-hoc committee needs to be formed. Christine Witulski to meet with Brian Bartosh to discuss next steps.
- b. Museum Employees' SIMPLE IRA plan: Christine Witulski reported (through Sue Stender) that paperwork to get the IRA plan set up has been submitted and is in process.
- c. Tourist Season Marking Campaign: Billboards will go up in May through August at various high-traffic entry points to Northeast Michigan.

#### 6) **New Business:**

- a. Christine Witulski reported (through Matt Klimczak) that approximately \$3,100 is needed to get the Museum's new graphic design / social media employee set up with a proper office space in the back corner of the downstairs classroom. It was moved by Sue Stender and seconded by Jon Gougeon to take money for this purpose from any CFNEM fund, if available, and use checking/savings if not available. All in favor. Motion carried.
- b. Gary Goren reported that the Museum is "about ready" to apply for a \$30,000 Alpena County Youth and Recreation grant for the Planet Walk project.

#### 7) **Adjourn:**

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Florip  
Acting Secretary