

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2019**

Present: Mike Ableidinger, Anne Belanger, John Caplis, Claudia Chapman, Jim Conboy, Clarence Cross, Ann Diamond, Jim Johnson, Michelle Miller, Gregg Resnick, Sue Stender, Judy Suszek, Janet Young and Executive Director Chris Witulski

Absent: Heidi Haaxma, Kristen Sharpe and Diane Speer

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Anne Belanger and the Museum Staff was asked to be present so that the Board could thank them for the long hours and extra work that went into making the Museum the “Christmas Wonderland” that it is for 2019—job well done and appreciated.

Minutes: Clarence Cross moved to accept the October 2019 Minutes, supported by Gregg Resnick. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Heidi Haaxma was called away prior to the meeting so ED Witulski gave a recap of the financial report. The depreciation is now calculated monthly versus at year end so the financials look very different than prior years but all in all the Museum has had a good season thus far. Jim Johnson moved to accept the financial report for October, supported by Sue Stender. All ayes. Motion carried.

New Business:

Election of New Officers at the January 21, 2020 Board Meeting: ED Witulski reported that the slate of new officers will be ready for the January Board Meeting. President Belanger will be stepping down and Jim Conboy will assume that position.

Reports to the Board:

Director’s Report—filed with Minutes: ED Witulski highlighted that there was a collections workshop conducted recently by Laura Quakenbush, museum professional, for 8 volunteers. The workshop was very worthwhile and all volunteers are doing an amazing job moving forward with organizing the museum collections.

She reported that DeLynn Medina and her mother, Marilyn Thom, have spent countless hours working with the Museum Staff to prepare for the holiday season. The kick-off event being a *Big Holiday Crafternoon* was Saturday, November 16, and was a success with over 200 attending. There will be an *Evening of Lights* on Saturday, December 14, which will be hosted by the Founder’s Society and will be free for Museum Members.

Promotion of Giving Tuesday is off and running with over \$5,000 being donated already and the event isn't until December 3, 2020.

ED Witulski has been working on partnering with area businesses for participation incentives to encourage registration for the 2nd Annual Jingle Bell Run as part of the holiday parade the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Committees:

Ad Hoc Committees:

Kat V/Chinook Projects: Jim Johnson reported that both he and Tuffy Cross attended the Great Lakes Fisheries meeting in Bay City recently. It was a good opportunity for networking. He worked on patching the shrink wrap on the vessel and removed the batteries in hopes of preserving them for use next summer to power up some of the vessels equipment. The Chinook will remain in the parking lot one more winter—the landscaping for the exhibit is near completion and the cradle to hold it is under construction. He distributed a proposed time schedule/plan for the upcoming year for the project. A lot of grants he may be applying for require a partnership with a governmental entity (City of Alpena in our case). Jim will work this winter to hopefully develop that partnership.

Tuffy Cross reported that the Kat V exhibit is closed for the winter. Harvey Klann (a 97 year-old volunteer and supporter of the project) was here to visit and see the progress.

It was also reported that Zack Irving was able to get onboard the LeBlanc fishing vessel to video what a day on the vessel entails. Interviews with the fishermen have also been completed and the project is in the editing stage at this point.

Native American Exhibit: Anne Belanger reported that two proposals have been received to consult on the Native American exhibit, one from Charlee Brissette and one from Calvin Hartwig, both members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Anne and ED Witulski will review the proposals and work with the two individuals to negotiate the best services for the Museum, either working with one or perhaps working with them together as a partnership.

Matt McCormack has also made much progress with the family members of Edith Bondie regarding stories and artifacts.

Fine Arts Committee: Ann Diamond had nothing new to report at this time.

Old Business:

Board Retreat: A Board Retreat has been scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Ron Bloomfield from CMU facilitating the retreat. The retreat will focus on goal setting for the next five years.

Adjourn: Mike Ableidinger moved to adjourn at 5:35, supported by Claudia Chapman. All ayes.
Motion carried.

The next meeting is January 21, 2020. NO DECEMBER MEETING

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Miller