

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan Board of Trustees Meeting
MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 17th 2023
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:

President Gary Goren (virtual), **Vice President** Mike Beaulac, **Secretary** Ashley Peterson, **Treasurer** Sue Stender, Michelle Miller, Claudia Chapman, Tuffy Cross, Jim Johnson (virtual), Judy Suszek, Janet Young, Jim Conboy, Dan Florip, Julie Austin, Sara Winter

Absent:

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm by Vice President Mike Beaulac.

2. Review November 29th, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes for approval (action item)

Board minutes from November 29th 2022 were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Janet Young with support from Tuffy Cross. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. Treasurer's report on November 2022 financials was presented by Sue Stender and filed as presented.

4. Reports to the Board

- a. **Director's Report:** A full report was submitted and is accessible online at the museum website.

- i. **Capital Project updates:**

- 1. **Meridian Exterior Project** - Waiting on spring to work on flowerbeds.
 - 2. **HVAC New chiller installation** - Finalization on chillers will continue in spring as seasons continue to shift and chiller continues to be adjusted as appropriate.

- ii. **Planetarium Project:** Jonathan has developed an educational program for the planetarium that will teach visitors how to navigate the night sky. He also engaged in a radio interview with Deb Michaels from HitsFM, who expressed interest in doing a daily "star talk" with Johnathan.

- b. **Ad Hoc Committees:**

- i. **Governance Report:**

- 1. No updates

- ii. **Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit:**

- 1. **Chinook Project:** Jim Johnson report

- a. Huron Engineering - Tuffy and Jim met with Huron Engineering regarding plans. Matt has supported the process regarding the Besser Museum grounds, however Tuffy and Jim have been required to follow up with Huron Engineering regarding delays in the plans.

- b. Kiwanis presentation was successful in describing former vibrant whitefish fishing community, invasive species, and the struggling commercial fishing industry.
 2. **Katherine V:** No report
 - iii. **Discover Northeast Michigan History:**
 1. Funding Report: See director's report.
 2. Project timeline: - A wall will be built to enclose the current exhibit and the following work can begin:
 - a. Mike Beaulac: PM Questions for Split Rock were shared by Mike Beaulac to the board for consideration in regards to project management. Mike will call Split Rock to discuss questions and share responses with the Director and board members upon completion of the conversation with Split Rock.
 - b. Dismantling the Exhibit Gallery - This work will begin in January 2023. Sarah and her staff will work on properly packing the artifacts currently on display. Past perfect will be used to ensure artifacts are appropriately digitally logged for audit purposes to ensure artifacts can be quickly found.
 - c. Committee work/research includes categories that may be represented in the new exhibit.
 - iv. **Fine Art Committee:** No report
 - v. **Collections Committee:**
 1. Claudia Chapman - Artifact accession proposal
 - a. Janet Young moved to accept the items presented with support from Ashley Peterson. All in favor. Motion carried.
 2. Claudia Chapman - Artifact deaccession proposal
 - a. Ashley Peterson moved to accept the items for deaccession presented with support from Jim Conboy . All in favor. Motion carried.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Old Mission Investment Company account is opened. Some paperwork to finalize transfer was needed but Gary confirmed that transfer has occurred.
 - b. ADA compliant automatic door opener for front door (\$4,809) is scheduled for installation.
 - c. Spark Grant - This is a state level recreation grant. The City of Alpena has sponsored the grant for the Planet Walk. We should hear back on the results of the first round of funding of this grant by the end of January.
6. **New Business**
 - a. None
7. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 pm. The next meeting is February 21st, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Peterson
Board Secretary