

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 4:40 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Mike Beaulac, Claudia Chapman, Tuffy Cross, Gary Goren, Jim Johnson, Michelle Miller, Sue Stender, Judy Suszek, Janet Young,

Others Present: Executive Director Chris Witulski

Absent: Ashley Peterson (excused) Mike Ableidinger, Marie Fielder, Jean Thomas (all three are stepping off the Board of Trustees for next fiscal year.)

Call to Order: President Michelle Miller called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Minutes: Claudia Chapman moved to accept the minutes of the May 2022, supported by Janet Young. All Ayes, motion carried

Treasurer's Report: Sue Stender presented the Treasurer's Report. Her report was accepted as presented and is available on the Board of Trustees's page at the museum's website. Marie Williams will present a draft of the new fiscal budget at the July board meeting. SLK will present the 2020-2021 audit report at the July meeting.

Director's Report:

1. ED Chris Witulski submitted a written Director's Report to the board accessible online at the museum's website.
1. ED Witulski asked for approval to enter the \$174,097 contract with Meridian Construction for the renovation to the exterior of the building with the understanding that the Besser Foundation is providing \$167,000 and the Museum is providing \$7,097. Gary Goren moved to approved, Mike Beaulac supported. All Ayes, motion carried.

Ad Hoc Committees:

1. **Governance:**
 1. With the resignations of three Board members, the Board needs to appoint new members for this year. Please submit recommendations.
2. **Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit:**
 - a. Tuffy reported that he hosted lots of tours on the Kat V and Chinook during fieldtrips.
 - b. The handicap walkway no connects to the Fossil Park.
 - c. The volunteer crew also fixed the Spratt Church doors.
 - d. Jim Johnson reported that he and his wife represented the Besser Museum at the Great Lake Fisheries Heritage Trail Conference in St. Ignace in May.
 - e. Jim completed the painting of the Chinook and site cleanup in preparation of Log Cabin Day.
 - f. Hammond Bay Biological Station will be bringing a sea lamprey display booth for Log Cabin Day.
 - g. The RFQs for engineering have been submitted to the DNR and we are now awaiting approval to hire an engineer to start the site work and prepare building documents for bidding on building the structure.

3. **Discover Northeast Michigan History/Anishinaabe Exhibit:**
 - . Ed Witulski presented a draft of the fundraising campaign materials for the DNMH exhibit and proposed having Naming Opportunities for the new exhibit. Naming Opportunity guidelines and Gift Agreement still needs to be drafted. Gary Goren moved to have Naming Opportunities with the guidelines in place. Jim Conboy supported. All Ayes, motion carried.
4. **Fine Arts Committee:**
 1. Brian Schorn will be curating the next exhibit for the Wilson Gallery. Steve Bye is in the gallery through July.
5. **Collections Committee:** Claudia Chapman presented the Collections Committee proposal for artifact accession as presented in the Board packet. Claudia moved to accession five artifacts into the permanent collection. Janet Young supported the motion. All Aye, motion carried. Claudia also presented two articles for deaccession as listed in the report. Claudia moved to accept the proposal to accept the artifacts as listed in the collection committee report to be deaccession, supported by Janet Young. All Ayes, motion carried.

Old Business:

“The Town That Wouldn’t Die”: Town that Wouldn’t Die: Books has been reordered. Waiting for delivery.

New Business:

1. The Founder’s Society is discussing dissolving their 501c3 status since they cannot maintain an active board according to their bylaws. They were seeking the opinion of the Besser Museum Board of Trustees as to whether maintaining their own 501c3 status would be beneficial to the Besser Museum. Jim Conboy stated that the Founders Society will need to work with a CPA or lawyer to properly dissolve their non-profit status.
2. The Board went into a closed session 5:22pm to discuss ED Witulski’s annual performance review.

Next Board Meeting: July 19 at 4:30 p.m. online.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Witulski
Executive Director