

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 17, 2017 @ 4:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Anne Belanger, John Caplis, Claudia Chapman, Jim Conboy, Tuffy Cross, Ann Diamond, Jim Johnson, Steve Lappan, Michelle Miller, Gregg Resnick, Judy Suszek and Janet Young also Christine Witulski, Executive Director

**Excused:** Mike Ableidinger and Kristen Sharpe

**Absent:** Don MacMaster and Carol Witherbee

**Meeting Called to Order at 4:38 p.m.**

**Minutes:** Jim Johnson moved to accept the September Minutes with a change under Chinook (contract for developing a general plan for the exhibit and boat has been awarded to Good Design Group), Tuffy Cross supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Judy Suszek reported that the Museum is one-third way through the fiscal year with revenues over expenditures by \$51,389--due to \$46,000 from Community Foundation from Northeast Michigan. Gregg Resnick made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, supported by Steve Lappan. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**Director's Report:**

- Executive Director Christine Witulski submitted her report in writing, which is filed with the Minutes. ED Witulski highlighted the following from the report:
  - a. Fall Harvest Fossil Day was Saturday, October 7, and was sponsored by LaFarge and Specification Stones. \$1 Museum admission and \$1 Planetarium admission. 2017 was another successful year.
  - b. The Season of Light opening reception will be Saturday, November 18, from 6-8 p.m. Tickets will be \$20 each.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Governance:** nothing to report

**Collections:** Claudia Chapman reported that the Committee did not meet.

**Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

**Katherine V:** Tuffy Cross reported that the last building project is complete and on October 26 the last tour of the season was given to the Office of the Great Lakes Group. The exhibit will be closed for the season.

**Chinook:** Jim Johnson reported that he along with Tuffy Cross and ED Witulski attended the Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Trail Conference, which was very beneficial.

**Planetarium:** ED Witulski reported that she is investigating holding evening shows; this will accommodate an audience that may not be able to make the current schedule.

**Fine Art:** ED Witulski reported that the Best Foot Non-Juried Exhibit has around 80 pieces at \$20 each entry--all proceeds will go toward framing the next exhibit.

**Native American Exhibit:** Anne Belanger and ED Witulski reported that work is ongoing with the Cook Family Endowment Fund. Besser Foundation granted \$30,000 to work with a professional design firm. Judy Dawley and Janet Young would like to be part of the planning. Frank Ettawageshik has agreed to be a Native American advisor for this project

**Old Business:**

- **Employee Handbook:** ED Witulski is working on retyping the handbook and will have reviewed by Jim Conboy and our insurance agent.

**New Business:**

- **Transportation Office added to Avenue of Shops--**Janet Young is in the brainstorming stage of creating a new area in the Avenue of Shops to showcase the transportation era of our area.

**Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Lappan, supported by Jim Johnson. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**Next Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. will be cancelled for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

**Submitted by Michelle Miller, Secretary**