

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Mike Beaulac, Claudia Chapman, Jim Conboy, Marie Fielder, Gary Goren, Jim Johnson, Michelle Miller, Sue Stender, Judy Suszek, Jean Thomas, Janet Young,

Others Present: Executive Director Chris Witulski

Absent: Mike Ableidinger, Tuffy Cross, Ashley Peterson (all excused)

Call to Order: President Michelle Miller called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Agenda Approved: Janet Young moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented., supported by Sue Stender. All Ayes, motion carried.

Minutes: Janet Young moved to accept the minutes of the March 2022 meeting with one correction, supported by Gary Goren. 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 Trustee's page at the museum's website.

Director's Report:

1. ED Chris Witulski submitted a written Director's Report to the board accessible online at the museum's website.

Ad Hoc Committees:

1. **Governance:**
 1. The Annual Membership Meeting will be held online. Members will be asked to vote by proxy. A notice of the Board members up for election will go out in the mail to museum members at least ten days in advance of the June 21st Board meeting in accordance with the bylaws. Votes are to be returned by June 15. Annual Board meeting will be Tuesday, June 21, online at 4:30 p.m.
 2. E.D. Witulski will check into the possibility of having the annual meeting online where members could be able to watch live.
 3. The following Board members' terms expires June 30, 2022: Jim Johnson, Sue Stender, Janet Young, and Mike Ableidinger. Jim, Sue, and Janet confirmed their interest in serving another three-year term.
 4. Board members were asked to submit names for potential candidates
2. **Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit:**
 - a. CR Yockey will start landscaping to create a handicap accessible path for \$2,400. The work is estimated to be completed by May 1.
 - b. Judy Suszek, Jim Conboy, Sue Stender, Jim Johnson, Mike Beaulac, Gary Goren, E.D. Witulski, and Facility Manager, Matt Klimczak, will meet to set up the financial management plan for the DNR grant-funded project.
 - c. The DNR Grant Guideline book has been posted on the Board of Trustees web page.
 - d. Request for Proposal for the Chinook building needs to be drafted and submitted to the DNR for approval before the Museum can publicly post request for bids.

- e. The Fisheries Exhibit will need volunteers to help on June 25 for Log Cabin Day.
 - f. Hammond Bay Biological Station will be attending Log Cabin Day.
- 3. Discover Northeast Michigan History/Anishinaabe Exhibit:**
- a. May 5 at 1 p.m. Cornerstone Architects will be at the museum to present the first draft of schematic drawings. The Board and committee members will be invited.
 - b. E.D Witulski has been drafting grants for the Alpena County Youth & Rec, Alpena County Older Persons and State of Michigan Arts & Culture Council. Janet Young and Judy Suszek have been assisting with editing all drafts.
 - c. An advisory committee has been established for the development of the Discover Northeast Michigan History exhibit.
- 4. Fine Arts Committee:** Brian Schorn will be curating the next exhibit for the Wilson Gallery. Janet Young made the motion to use up to \$5,000 from the Candace Smith Fund to contract Brian Schorn to curate the art exhibit, supported by Mike Beaulac. All Ayes, motion carried.
- 5. Collections Committee:** Claudia Chapman presented the Collections Committee proposal for artifact accession as presented in the Board packet. Janet Young moved to accept the proposal for artifacts to be accessioned into the permanent collection as presented, supported by Mike Beaulac. All Ayes, motion carried.

Old Business: “The Town That Wouldn’t Die”: The books came in, but Allegra is not pleased with the quality. The books will be reprinted at no cost to the museum. The books should be here in twelve weeks.

New Business: CFNEM Special Fund: Jim Conboy moved to enter a contract with CFNEM to establish a Special Project Fund to manage the capital campaign for the Discover Northeast Michigan History exhibit project with final terms being negotiated by the Executive Director, supported by Mike Beaulac. All Ayes, motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: May 17 at 4:30 p.m. online.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Witulski
Executive Director