

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

Tuesday, March 21st 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 , **Vice President** Mike Beaulac, **Secretary** Ashley Peterson, **Treasurer** Sue Stender, Michelle Miller, Jim Johnson, Claudia Chapman, Tuffy Cross, Judy Suszek, Janet Young, Jim Conboy, Dan Florip, Julie Austin, Sara Winter (virtual)

Absent: Sue Stender (excused), Michelle Miller (excused)

**1. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:26 pm by Gary Goren

**2. Review February 21st, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes for approval** (*action item*)

Board minutes from February 21st, 2023 were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Janet Young with support from Mike Beaulac. All in favor. Motion carried.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

- a. Treasurer's report on February 2023 financials was included in the board packet and completed by Sue Stender. Chris Witulski discussed key points and the report was filed as reported.

**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. A draft of the project schedule and task and payment timeline was shared in the board packet. These documents will be revised and shared to the board once finalized.
    - 2. May 9th - Split Rock meeting
    - 3. Contracting with two individuals to support & audit the education coordinator program. Clint Kendziorski & Kelly Bleau will ensure the system and structure is aligned, the lesson plans meet needs, creation of an education committee, and the long-term goal is stability of the practices and procedures and educational team.

- b. **Ad Hoc Committees:**

- i. **Governance Report:**

- 1. Appointment of new board member: Jon Gougeon. Motion to appoint Jon Gougeon to a vacant seat as of April 1st. Second by Claudia Chapman. All in favor. Motion carried.
      - 2. Please contact Christ or Gary with any recommendations to fill the 15th seat that is currently vacant.
      - 3. Judy Suszek is stepping down from the board and as governance chair. Dan Florip was asked to step into the role and Dan accepted the role.

- ii. **Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit:**
  - 1. **Chinook Project:** Jim Johnson report
    - a. Huron Engineering - the engineering drawings have been submitted to the DNR. The plans are ready to go out for bid. It is anticipated that the costs for the project will be more clear based on the bids within the next 30 days.
  - 2. **Katherine V:** Opening in April with the first tour on April 22nd.
- iii. **Discover Northeast Michigan History:**
  - 1. Funding Report: See director's report.
  - 2. Project timeline
    - a. Mike Beaulac: Split Rock contract signed/Kick-off Meeting report.
      - i. Positive remarks from board members regarding the presentation and meeting with Split Rock.
    - b. Dismantling the Exhibit Gallery
      - i. Archival process is quite extensive due to the challenging ways some of the artifacts from 50+ years ago were mounted to the displays. Despite these challenges, the Matt and Sarah and staff have done a phenomenal job ensure care and maintaining integrity of each artifact. Sarah also continues to learn the archival software to ensure accuracy for each entry.
    - c. Committee work/research
- iv. **Fine Art Committee:** No report
- v. **Collections Committee:**
  - 1. Claudia Chapman - Artifact accession proposal
    - a. Claudia Chapman moved to accept the items presented with support from Jim Johnson. All in favor. Motion carried.

## 5. Old Business

- a. Revise Strategic Plan
  - i. This is an ongoing process, however no new information to report at this time.
- b. Website Bids
  - i. Chris is awaiting information on a couple bid for the website. Once the information is available, the board will review the information and support next steps.

## 6. New Business

- a. Money Market Account - Jim Conboy discussed the money market account and loan request. Would like to approach local financial institutions to secure a line of credit. The other focus was to transfer some money to ensure fiduciary responsibility in an FDIC insured account for the funds.

## 7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. The next meeting is April 18th, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ashley Peterson  
Board Secretary