

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 4:31 pm**

**Board Members Present:** Clarence Cross, Jim Johnson, Michelle Miller, Judy Suszek, Janet Young, Mike Beaulac, Sue Stender, Marie Fielder

**Others Present:** Executive Director Chris Witulski

**Absent:** Jean Thomas, Mike Ableidinger, Jim Conboy, Claudia Chapman, Ashley Peterson, Gary Goren (all excused)

**Call to Order:** President Michelle Miller called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

**Minutes:** Tuffy Cross moved to accept the minutes of the February 2022 meeting. Janet Young supported. All in favor. 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.
2. Witulski reviewed the 504/ADA self-evaluation workbook and went over the possible impact on programs and activities. The museum is continuing to work on the self-evaluation process.

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

1. **Governance:** Diane Speer's resignation was reviewed. Marie Fielder announced she will be stepping off the Board on June 30, 2022. She will continue to serve on the Anishinaabe exhibit ad-hoc committee. The museum usually maintains a 15-member Board. We will be seeking new candidates for potential board members.
2. **Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit:** Jim Johnson announced the Besser Museum was awarded the DNR Invasive Species Grant in the amount \$386,500. The committee is making inquiries to the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission for additional funding.
3. **Discover Northeast Michigan History/Anishinaabe Exhibit:** The History committee met on March 9<sup>th</sup> with architects from Cornerstone Architects. The committee was very impressed with the firm asked them to submit a bid for the project. Cornerstone will contact Split Rock Studios to include the cost of exhibit design/fabrication/installation into the bid.
4. **Fine Art Committee:** No new business. A new exhibit in the gallery will be installed in June 2022.
5. **Collections Committee:** The Collections Committee proposal for artifact accession was presented in the Board packet. All three artifacts were approved for accession into the permanent collect.

**Old Business:**

**"The Town That Wouldn't Die":** The books came in, but Allegra is not pleased with the quality. They asked we hold the books until he speaks with the printing company and gets back with us.

**New Business:**

- Janet Young made the motion to apply for the State of Michigan Arts and Culture Council FY23 Capital Improvement Grant for the new Discovery Northeast Michigan History exhibit. Tuffy Cross supported. Motion passed.
- Jim Johnson made the motion to purchase the planetarium program “Birth of Planet Earth” for \$5,000 using \$3,000 from the Harry Johnson Museum Fund along with the \$2,000 CFNEM Impact Grant awarded for this purpose. Judy Suszek supported. Motion passed.

**Next Board Meeting:** President, Michelle Miller asked if the members wanted to hold the April meeting online or in person. The Board agreed to hold the Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting online.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Witulski  
Executive Director