

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, August 16th, 2022 at 4:30 pm**

**Board Members Present:** Claudia Chapman, Jim Conboy, Jim Johnson, Michelle Miller, Dan Florip, Judy Suszek, Mike Ableidinger, Mike Beaulac, Sue Stender, Ashley Peterson, Janet Young,

**Others Present:** Executive Director Chris Witulski, Jim Kraenzlein, Marie Williams

**Absent:** Gary Goren (excused), Clarence Cross (excused)

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

**Minutes:** Jim Conboy moved to accept the minutes of the June 2022 meeting. Janet Young supported. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Audit:** Jim Kraenzlein presented an overview of the audit for fiscal year ending 2021. The audit is available at the museum's website.

**Budget:** Marie Williams presented the proposed budget for 2022-2023 fiscal year. The budget is available at the museum's website. Sue Stender moved to accept the budget for the 2022 - 2023 fiscal year. Jim Conboy supported. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sue Stender presented reports for June and July 2022. Her report was accepted as presented and is available 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. Capital Project updates:
  - i. **Meridian: Exterior Project** Chris discussed the work being completed around the museum, including exterior brick work, steps, and sidewalks being replaced.
  - ii. **HVAC: New chiller installation** There have been HVAC issues that Chris is working with staff and HVAC companies to resolve, including the installation of a new chiller.
3. Planetarium Projector Currently the Planetarium Projector is working only at half dome. As such, the board discussed the potential for replacement to ensure the planetarium can continue to be a fully functioning part of the museum.
4. Chris reviewed the brochure for Discover Northeast Michigan History.

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

1. **Governance:** Nothing to report this month.
2. **Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit:** Jim Johnson gave a brief report on the Chinook and Katherine V projects. Currently are working to obtain signage for components of exhibits. This will allow for tours and more information regarding these exhibits at the museum.

3. **Discover Northeast Michigan History** Refer to Director's report.
4. **Fine Art Committee:** The 2021 Juried Art Exhibit winner is exhibited in Wilson gallery.
5. **Collections Committee:** Claudia Chapman, representing the committee, prepared an artifact accession proposal. **MOTION:** Claudia Chapman made a motion to accept the items as presented into the collections, supported by Janet Young. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

**Board discussed the potential to identify and work with a local financial advisor.** Board was overall in support. Dan Florip recommended a few potential financial advisors. Director Witulski requested assistance from board members to collaborate on this support.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Peterson  
Acting Board Secretary