

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 20, 2019**

Present: Mike Ableidinger, Anne Belanger, John Caplis, Claudia Chapman, Jim Conboy, Clarence Cross, Ann Diamond, Jim Johnson, Michelle Miller, Gregg Resnick, Kristen Sharpe, Judy Suszek, Janet Young and Executive Director Chris Witulski

Excused Absent: Heidi Haaxma, Diane Speer and Sue Stender

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Anne Belanger

Minutes: Jim Conboy moved to accept the May 2019 Minutes, supported by Janet Young. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: In Heidi Haaxma's absence, ED Chris Witulski gave an overview of the Treasurer's Report. She shared that CPA Marie Williams and her assistant will add additional narrative to the report to make it easier to read/understand. Jim Johnson moved to accept the July Treasurer's Report, supported by Gregg Resnick. All ayes. Motion carried.

New Business: nothing

Reports to the Board:

Director's Report—filed with Minutes: ED Witulski highlighted the fact that attendance is on the rise and she attributes that, in part, to the new digital sign. She receives many favorable comments on it. She also reminded the Board that there will be a Board retreat in place of the October meeting on October 15.

Committees:

Governance Committee: Chair Gregg Resnick reviewed a report from the Governance Committee (filed with Minutes) which outlined suggestions compiled after the committee reviewed the first six standards of the STEPS program.

Ad Hoc Committees:

Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit: Clarence Cross shared that the Kat V project has added the seventh mannequin on the boat, refurbished the cabin, completed a new foot trail around the exhibit and Mike McGirr donated 22 hours to paint the shed (total supplies cost of \$420). Jim Johnson reported that the Zach Irving interview with the LeBlanc Brothers is complete. The brothers, Robert and Albert, are natural storytellers and there is about two hours of good footage. He was very pleased with the outcome. Zach and ED Witulski are working on permits to be allowed to go out on the fishing boat. The site of the future home of the Chinook is almost ready—there needs to be a meeting to prioritize the needs to complete the move. Jim also reported that he will not be applying for a MCACA grant for the project this year.

Native American Exhibit: Anne Belanger reported that ED Witulski had a good meeting with Roger Cook, donor, and he is very happy with the progress. They will be pulling the committee together again soon to work on tying environmental protection into the exhibit.

Fine Arts Committee: Ann Diamond is revitalizing this committee and is working on a couple opportunities to enhance the Fine Arts portion of the Museum. She will have more to share in October.

HR Committee: Jim Conboy shared the HR Committee's recommendation for sick day and vacation leave, which is now missing from the Employee Handbook. After much discussion, Ann Diamond moved to submit the Employee Handbook for legal advice to Attorney Daniel Florip for legal recommendation. Supported by Jim Johnson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Scheduling Board Retreat – 2017-2021 Strategic Plan and Goals (view full plan on Board Webpage: Retreat will replace the October meeting—President Belanger asked that Board Members review the strategic plan.

R.S. Scott Architects: Continuing to work on building plans. Their mechanical engineer visited the Museum in August. December 2019 is the deadline for the final report.

Adjourn: Janet Young moved to adjourn at 5:47, supported by Claudia Chapman. All ayes. Motion carried.

The next meeting is Tuesday, September 17, 2019. ED Witulski and President Belanger will be absent. Facility Manager, Matt Klimczak and Mike Ableidinger will host a guided tour of the Museum and grounds.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Miller