

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, August 16, 2016 @ 4:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Mike Ableidinger, Anne Belanger, Tuffy Cross, Ann Diamond, Margaret Henschel, Jim Johnson, Steve Lappan, Chris Lombardo, Don MacMaster, Michelle Miller, Dan Stevens, Judy Suszek, Kristin Werth, Carol Witherbee and Janet Young--also Christine Witulski, Executive Director

**Absent:** Claudia Chapman and Gregg Resnick

**Called to Order:** President Steve Lappan called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

**Minutes:** Dan Stevens moved to accept the July Minutes with the time of the meeting being called to order corrected to read 4:34 p.m., Margaret Henschel supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Judy Suszek reviewed the proposed budget for 2016-2017--no questions were posed. Dan Stevens made a motion to accept the proposed budget for 2016-2017, supported by Tuffy Cross. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**Director's Report:**

- Executive Director Christine Witulski submitted her report in writing, which is filed with the Minutes.
- Senator Peters will be at the Museum on Monday, August 22, in the morning. Board members are encouraged to be on hand as well. Chris will send an email with the specifics.
- Plexiglas has been installed in the historical buildings to allow viewing of the interior when there aren't staff members present.
- Bliss Painting has volunteered to attend the September meeting to recap a proposed maintenance plan for the historical buildings. It is much more cost effective to maintain buildings than to restore once they are deteriorated.
- Gildner Concrete will be donating four concrete benches which will provide much needed sitting in the backyard as a donation for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Either ACC, or Gildner Concrete will also be providing two concrete picnic tables.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Governance:** Nothing to report

**Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

**Katherine V:** Tuffy Cross reported the project is ongoing and at about 80% completion.

**Chinook:** Jim Johnson reported that the Chinook took its final voyage with the Ad Hoc Committee, Steve Lappan and Chris Witulski aboard. The Committee, along with officials from Lansing, is working on a plan to take the project from relocation to completion and beyond. They are exploring multiple possibilities for funding not only

the project but programming afterwards. Dodge Marina will handle the relocation of the vessel. The importance of media coverage of the relocation was stressed.

**Planetarium:** Steve Lappan reported that carpeting was ordered from Young's today with installation scheduled in two weeks. Spitz will begin the system installation on August 29. Omega Electric will donate the electrical upgrades necessary for the project. If all goes well, the Ad Hoc Committee should be dissolved by the end of September 2016.

**Fine Art:** Nothing to report

**Old Business:**

- The banners are up on the light poles and the outdoor sign has had a facelift. All looks great.
- A committee comprised of Steve Lappan, Ann Diamond and Chris Witulski is working on a recognition board which will hopefully incorporate not only the 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign Donors but annual donors as well. It was suggested that the recognition board should be of a design which would allow for uniform smaller boards that could be incorporated for individual project donors; i.e., Katherine V Project Donors, which would be located at the project site. The donor board should look professional and express appreciation while at the same time not be overly expensive as to give the impression that the Museum Board has not been good stewards of the donations received.

**New Business:**

- President Lappan, along with ED Witulski, expressed the need for a Facilities Committee to develop a Facilities Plan to address the ever-growing needs of the building and grounds. There is a total of \$49,000+ available from a prior Capital Campaign that was earmarked for facilities expenditures. The loading dock and leaking basement are two urgent projects that need attention. The committee will be chaired by Mike Ableidinger, members will include Anne Belanger, who will work on grants to help fund the continuation of building and grounds repairs and upgrades; Kristin Werth; and Jim Johnson. Anne shared that any improvements/repairs should be documented visually to validate the need for additional funds through grants.

**Adjourn:** Dan Stevens made a motion to adjourn, supported by Steve Lappan. All Ayes. Motion carried. **Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.**

**Next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at 4:30 p.m.**

**Submitted by Michelle Miller, Acting Secretary**