

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 4:31 pm**

Board Members Present: Claudia Chapman, Jim Conboy, Clarence Cross, Jim Johnson, Michelle Miller, Diane Speer, Judy Suszek, Mike Ableidinger, Mike Beaulac, Sue Stender, Gary Goren, Ashley Peterson

Others Present: Executive Director Chris Witulski

Absent: Janet Young (excused), Marie Fielder (excused), Jean Thomas,

Call to Order: President Michelle Miller called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Minutes: Jim Conboy moved to accept the minutes of the November 2021 meeting. Tuffy Cross 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 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. Chris gave an update on the HVAC project, for which Matt Klimczak provided a detailed report.
3. Her report covered the Season of Light exhibit and activities.
4. The report detailed the Membership Drive Holiday Raffle.
5. Chris also discussed the Capital Project involving the museum's exterior. Work will be done by Meridian Construction and Moran Ironworks. The Besser Foundation awarded a \$194,000 grant for the project. An additional \$15,000 in funds is needed for railing on the back patio/stairwell area that will come from savings the museum has realized in other areas. **MOTION:** Jim Johnson made a motion to authorize the museum to proceed with Moran Ironworks to complete the back patio/stairwell railing project with funds not to exceed \$45,000 and to come from the Besser Foundation grant funds and recent savings the museum has realized. Jim Conboy supported. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Staffing changes were discussed in light of Education Coordinator Amanda Kucharek recently taking another position in the community. Chris is looking at several different options to best fit the needs of the museum long-term.
7. Chris provided details of a proposal for a new History Gallery Exhibit that will dovetail with the Native American Exhibit currently under development. The board discussed the concept for the exhibit at length. Chris will continue to explore the project, which will make use of Granum Endowment Funds held at the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan specifically for the development of history exhibits within the museum.
8. Chris briefly touched on a forthcoming press release regarding the Granum Endowment fund.

Ad Hoc Committees:

1. **Governance:** Judy Suszek presented the following slate of officers:
 - a. President – Michelle Miller

- b. First Vice-President – Gary Goren
- c. Second Vice-President – Vacant
- d. Acting Secretary – Ashley Peterson
- e. Treasurer – Sue Stender

MOTION: Judy Suszek made a motion to elect the slate of officers as presented. Jim Conboy supported. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 2. **Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit:** Jim Johnson gave a brief report on the Chinook project. Tuffy Cross then gave a brief report on the Kat V. It was shared that Gary Goren is doing video interviews with both Jim and Tuffy on Great Lakes fishing.
- 3. **Fine Art Committee:** Chris shared that she met with Brian Schorn to discuss the next art exhibit in the new gallery space. The exhibit will go up in May/June.
- 4. **Collections Committee:** Claudia Chapman, representing the committee, recommended accession of 11 items into the museum’s permanent collection. **MOTION:** Claudia made a motion to accept the items as presented into the collections, supported by Jim Conboy. All in favor. Motion carried. The 11 items are as follows:
 - a. Eight photos of the Holiday Inn, circa 1970s
 - b. Framed painting of the Alpena Holiday Inn opening following its grand opening
 - c. Two framed aerial photos of the Alpena Boat Harbor circa 2006 taken by local photographer, Tim Moggie.

Old Business:

Planet/History Walk: Gary Goren gave an update on the Planet/History Walk, which has been approved by City Council. Word should be received by next month on the grant he applied for to help fund the project. The grant is for \$25,000.

“The Town That Wouldn’t Die”: Chris said the museum should have the reprinted copies of the book by the end of the month.

New Business:

2022 Grant Authorization: **MOTION:** Gary Goren made a motion to authorize Executive Director Chris Witulski, on behalf of the Besser Museum, to apply for grants for the 2022 year. Supported by Tuffy Cross. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Speer
Board Secretary