

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 20, 2021**

Present: Mike Beaulac, Claudia Chapman, Jim Conboy, Clarence Cross, Marie Fielder, Gary Goren, Jim Johnson, Michelle Miller, Sue Stender, Judy Suszek, Janet Young and Executive Director Chris Witulski

Absent: Mike Ableidinger (excused) and Diane Speer (excused)

Guests: Susan Edwards, R.S. Scott and John Richards, Apollo Engineering (representing R. S. Scott)

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Michelle Miller.

HVAC System bid presentation by Susan Edwards with assistance from John Richards. Susan presented the two bids that were received; one from Johnson & Wood, LLC in the amount of \$195,000 for the chiller and \$47,000 add on and one from Weinkauf Plumbing & Heating in the amount of \$230,710 for the chiller and \$46,965 add on. After much discussion, including a question and answer session with both Susan and John, and reassurance from Susan that the Johnson & Wood bid was comparable even with a \$35,710 difference and that the company was reputable, Jim Johnson made a motion to move forward with a contract with Johnson & Wood, LLC in the amount of \$195,000 for replacement of the chiller, supported by Mike Beaulac. All ayes, motion carried. In addition to the cost of the chiller and installation, there is a \$12,000 project management fee for R.S. Scott. The add on component will not be installed at this time and the controllers still need to be addressed—ED Witulski is seeking additional bids for this work.

Minutes: Jim Johnson moved to accept the March 2021 Minutes, with the following changes, (1) change the February 16th date to March 16th and (2) mark Jim Johnson as present at the March meeting. Motion supported by Janet Young. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Stender reported on the March 2021 financials. Filed as presented.

Reports to the Board:

Director's Report—filed with Minutes: ED Witulski highlighted the progress on the remodeling of the Wilson Gallery.

Committees:

Ad Hoc Committees:

Governance: Judy Suszek reported that invitations will be extended to three potential candidates (Ashley Wilmot, Sherry Milstein, and Kathy Garant). All three will be sent a board application to complete—there will be one vacancy to fill in June 2021 for the 2021-22 year. See Director’s Report for more information on the Annual Meeting.

Kat V/Chinook Projects: Jim Johnson reported that he is still pursuing grant opportunities for this project. At this time, it doesn’t look promising but he will continue his search. See Director’s Report for additional information.

Native American Exhibit: see Director’s Report

Fine Arts Committee: Jean Thomas reported the first Fine Art Advisory committee meeting went well. Consultant, Brian Schorn is working on curating the first exhibit, set to open in June. Their next meeting will be Thursday, April 22nd. see Director’s Report.

Collections Committee: ED Witulski presented a list of items for permanent acquisition. Janet Young made a motion to accept the items for permanent acquisition, supported by Judy Suszek. All ayes, motion carried.

Old Business:

HVAC System Bid: see above

Log Cabin Renovation Project: see Director’s Report

New Business:

Planetarium: President Miller asked the Board to review Johnathan Winckowski’s monthly report—calling attention the fact that the Spitz parent company, Evans & Sutherland was bought out and the whole company is under new management. He was informed that by Spitz that the company will be halting the production, installation and support for the SciDome systems, which is the digital system that manages the planetarium and the projectors. This won’t cause issues immediately but will in the near future 1-2 years (no longer receive updates) and 5-10 years (computer system will need to be replaced--\$30,000 to \$50,000 expense).

Adjourn: meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Miller & Christine Witulski