

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan Board of Trustees Meeting  
MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 20th, 2023  
4:30 p.m.

*Our mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit authentic articles and artifacts of art, history, and science to inspire curiosity for all ages, foster community pride, and cultivate personal legacy.*

**Board Members:**

**President** Gary Goren , **Vice President** Mike Beaulac, **Secretary** Ashley Peterson, **Treasurer** Sue Stender, Michelle Miller, Claudia Chapman, Tuffy Cross, Jim Johnson, Janet Young, Jim Conboy, Dan Florip, Sara Winter, Julie Austin, Jon Gougeon, Brian Bartosh

Absent:

**1. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:49 pm by Gary Goren.

**2. Review May 16th 2023, Board Meeting Minutes for approval (action item)**

Board minutes from May 16th, 2023 were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Janet Young with support from Sue Stender. All in favor. Motion carried.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

- a. Treasurer's report on May 2023 financials was included in the board packet and completed by Sue Stender. Sue Stender discussed key points and the report was filed as reported.

**4. Reports to the Board**

- a. **Director's Report:** A full report was submitted and is accessible online at the museum website.

- i. **Capital Project updates:**

1. Exterior project - Landscaping has been completed.

- b. **Ad Hoc Committees:**

- i. **Governance Report:**

1. New board members were elected at the Annual Membership Meeting.

- ii. **Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit:**

1. **Chinook Project:** Jim Johnson reported that discussion with Meridian occurred to address changes in the building to better align with initial plans. Huron Engineering will provide the permits - once received, they will be sent to the DNR for approval.
    2. **1923 Flood Exhibit:** Collaboration occurred with museum staff and Board member Jim Johnson to review plates from 1920s. Photographs were pulled to further develop a virtual exhibit on the website as well as an upcoming Zoom discussion in August 2023.
    3. **Katherine V:** Tuffy: The walkway for the Kat V for handicap accessibility has been moved. Christine noted that an accompanying book to support children visitors in enhancing their experience of this exhibit will be created, similar to that created for the Avenue of Shops.

- iii. **Discover Northeast Michigan History:**

1. Funding Report: See director's report.
2. Project timeline
  - a. A \$100,000 MACC Capital Improvement Grant was submitted on June 1.
  - b. Dismantling ceiling: Meridian will begin in July.
- iv. **Fine Art Committee:** Wilson Gallery is set until October. Trelfa Gallery: NEMAG exhibit 4/23/2023 - 7/23/2023.
- v. **Collections Committee:**
  1. Claudia Chapman - Artifact accession proposal. There are four objects to review for potential artifact accession. Claudia also mentioned the potential to add photographs to this portion of the board packet to support discussion on artifacts.
    - a. Ashley Peterson moved to accept the items presented with support from Janet Young. All in favor. Motion carried.

## 5. Old Business

- a. Insurance Proposals from Lappan Agency and Alpena Agency: Discussion within board members to renew policy with Lappan Agency.
- b. Proposal to use \$17,000 in the Infinex Money Market account to pay for the roof repairs has been postponed until we can discuss long-term solutions. We have not closed the Infinex account yet.
  - i. A leak occurred in the ceiling in previous months which caused a shift in the function and physical location of the drains that is preventing the roof from draining properly. Mike Beaulac spoke with Timm Construction regarding replacement of the roof (reflected in new business).

## 6. New Business

- a. Roof repairs: Timm Construction did a core test of the roof. Bid to replace the roof is \$175,801.
  - i. Discussion on exploration of alternative roofs, including green and solar options. Further research on potential grant opportunities to support offsetting the cost of the roof.

## 7. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was presented by Jim Johnson with support from Mike Beaulac. The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 pm. The next meeting is July 18th, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ashley Peterson  
Board Secretary