

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Mike Ableidinger, Mike Beaulac, Claudia Chapman, Tuffy Cross, Marie Fielder, Gary Goren, Jim Johnson, Michelle Miller, Ashley Peterson, Sue Stender, Judy Suszek, Janet Young,

Others Present: Executive Director Chris Witulski

Absent: Jim Conboy, Jean Thomas (all excused)

Call to Order: President Michelle Miller called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Minutes: Janet Young moved to accept the minutes of the April 2022 meeting with one clarification from Claudia Chapman, supported by Claudia Chapman. All Ayes, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Stender presented the Treasurer's Report. Her report was accepted as presented and is available on the Board of Trustee's page 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.

Ad Hoc Committees:

1. **Governance:**

1. Voting by proxy for board members whose terms expire in June 2022.
2. Marie Fielder is stepping down from the board.
3. With 12 board members, the Board would be operating at its minimum level.
4. Dan Florip has requested to join the Board as of July 1st.
5. Board shall continue to look for and identify individuals who may want to join the board.

2. **Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit:**

- a. Last month, with board support, a spreadsheet was created to track hours and expenses to support documentation for grant purposes.
- b. Bid packet for request for quotes for building over the Chinook will be going out.
- c. Updates on what has occurred in Fisheries Heritage exhibit.
- d. Painting project on work deck is nearly complete.
- e. CR Yockey will start landscaping to create a handicap accessible path for \$2,400.
- f. Tours to school groups have already begun.

3. **Discover Northeast Michigan History/Anishinaabe Exhibit:**

- . Reviewed first draft of the floor plan. Currently revisions are underway to create the plan for demolition/construction and related grant documents.
- a. More materials will also be provided for fundraising.
- b. Judy and Janet have helped with reading and revising the budget and budget narrative for the grant. Letter of support have been collected.

4. **Fine Arts Committee:**

1. Brian Schorn will be curating the next exhibit for the Wilson Gallery. Steve Bye is in the gallery.

5. **Collections Committee:** Claudia Chapman presented the Collections Committee proposal for artifact accession as presented in the Board packet. Janet moved to accept the oil painting, support by Judy Suszek. All Aye, motion carried. Claudia also presented for articles for deaccession. Tuffy moved to accept the proposal for artifacts as listed in the collection committee report to be deaccession, supported by Janet Young. All Ayes, motion carried.

Old Business:

“The Town That Wouldn’t Die”: Town that Wouldn’t Die: Books has been reordered. Waiting for delivery.

Contract with CFNEM - discussed last month. CFNEM assists with fundraising and coordination. Chris shared benefit of creation of the CFNEM to support the work with Discover Northeast Michigan. Motion to open an account with CFNEM to support special funds for this project by Jim Johnson, support by Gary Goren. All Ayes, motion carried.

New Business:

Closing on Sundays: Chris shared relevant and historical data regarding closing on Sundays. Two data points discussed included staff burnout and low attendance on Sundays. Judy moved to close the museum on Sunday effective immediately, support by Claudia. All Ayes, motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: June 21 at 4:30 p.m. online.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Peterson
Acting Secretary