

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 15, 2019**

Present: Anne Belanger, John Caplis, Claudia Chapman, Clarence Cross, Ann Diamond, Heidi Haaxma, Michelle Miller, Gregg Resnick, Kristen Sharpe, Sue Stender, Judy Suszek, Janet Young and Executive Director Chris Witulski

Absent: Mike Ableideinger, Jim Conboy, Jim Johnson and Diane Speer

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Anne Belanger

Minutes: Clarence Cross moved to accept the September 2019 Minutes, supported by Claudia Chapman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Heidi Haaxma reported that she had been using the wrong format for the financials and will switch formats and report September and October financials in November. The Treasurer's Report was tabled until the November meeting.

New Business:

Proposed Board Retreat: After much discussion, it was decided to hold the board retreat in January if Facilitator Ron Bloomfield's schedule allows. Hopefully the retreat will be scheduled on a Tuesday, replacing the regular board meeting for the month. It was suggested that the retreat be held off site.

Giving Tuesday: ED Witulski reported that the Museum will again be part of "Giving Tuesday" through the CFNEM on Tuesday, December 3, 2019. All funds raised will go toward maintaining the historical buildings. There will be an ongoing move to educate the public/community on the need for financial support of these exhibits. There will be a full-page color ad in November in The Alpena News, for a cost of \$600.

Reports to the Board:

Director's Report—filed with Minutes: ED Witulski highlighted that Fall Harvest Fossil Fest was a success. She also highlighted that the *Season of Light* event will be held from noon to 3 on Saturday, November 16, and be a family fun format vs. an evening affair.

Committees:

Ad Hoc Committees:

Kat V/Chinook Projects: Clarence Cross shared that work on the exhibit has ceased for the season. Clarence and his wife attended the Fisheries Heritage Trail Conference in Bay City, touring the museum and taking in the planetarium show. Jim Johnson presented and John Caplis also attended.

Clarence Cross made a motion to spend the available funds from the old 2000 Capital Campaign Funds Account #6617 at mBank to finish the Chinook/Great Lakes Heritage Exhibit Campus Excavating Project, supported by John Caplis. All ayes, motion carried.

Native American Exhibit: Anne Belanger reported that the research for the project is complete and there should be strong letters of support for the project from those they have developed a relationship with as the Museum moves forward with grant applications.

Fine Arts Committee: Ann Diamond reported that she is pursuing a pilot program, "Besser Downtown", which would give the Museum a presence in Downtown Alpena at the Centennial Building. The hope is for Friday, Saturday, Sunday hours from Memorial Day through Labor Day and possibly Thanksgiving through Christmas. The one-time gift of \$25,000 from Besser Foundation celebrating their 75th Anniversary will be used to fund this project. Gary Dawley, President of Besser Foundation, is very supportive of the proposed project. ED Witulski is working on a business plan and checking into insurances, security, etc.

Old Business:

R.S. Scott Architects: Continuing to work on building plans. Their mechanical engineer visited the Museum in August. December 2019 is the deadline for the final report.

Adjourn: Janet Young moved to adjourn at 5:50, supported by Heidi Haaxma. All ayes. Motion carried.

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 19, 2019.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Miller