

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

Tuesday, December 19, 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, (virtual) Michelle Miller, Claudia Chapman, Tuffy Cross, Janet Young, Jim Johnson, Dan Florip, Sara Winter Jon Gougeon, and Julie Austin

Absent: Sue Stender, Julie Austin, Mike Beaulac, and Brian Bartosh

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 pm by Michelle Miller (Past President)

2. Review October 17, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes for approval (*action item*)

Board minutes from October 17, 2023, were reviewed. Claudia Chapman noted we did not meet on November 21st, this will be corrected. Motion to approve minutes by Jim Johnson with support from Jon Gougeon. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. The written Treasurer's report on October and November 2023 was presented by Executive Director, Christine Witulski. Report was filed as presented.

4. Reports to the Board

- a. **Director's Report:** A full report was submitted and is accessible online at the museum website.
 - i. Discover Northeast Michigan History Exhibit
 1. MCACA awarded Besser Museum \$50,000 for phase 2.
 2. The budget is set at \$1.8 million. \$500,000 still needs to be secured.
 3. A second appeal letter is going out for end of the year giving.
 - ii. Split Rock Studios
 1. The DD1 documents have been provided for our review. Besser Museum's response to the DD1 documents is due by January 8.
 - iii. Season of Light Members Only Reception was a success.
- b. **Ad Hoc Committees:**
 - i. **Governance Report:**
 1. Dan Florip reported the January board meeting will be election of officers. The slate of officers for 2024 would be, President: Gary Goren, V.P.: Mike Beaulac, Secretary: Ashley Peterson, Treasurer:
 - ii. **Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Exhibit:**
 1. **Katherine V:**
 - a. Tuffy reported the Katherine V is closed until April.
 2. **Chinook Project:**
 - a. Meridian started construction on the Chinook shelter. Tuffy Cross has been taking pictures daily to document process.

b. Jim Johnson attended a meeting in Bay City hosted by MSU Sea Grant, Brandon Schroeder. Also in attendance were DNR officials and Michigan teachers. The object was to develop curriculum for the new "Teaching Great Lakes Science" program. The finished product will produce curriculum and teaching tools featuring the Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage exhibit.

iii. **Discover Northeast Michigan History:**

1. This was discussed as reflected in the Director's report.

iv. **Fine Art Committee:** No report

v. **Collections Committee:**

1. Claudia Chapman - Artifact accession/deaccession proposal. Claudia proposed three items for accession. Motion to approve by Claudia Chapman with support from Janet Young. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Claudia proposed six items for deaccession. Motion to approve by Claudia Chapman with support from Janet Young. All in favor. Motion carried.

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5. **Old Business**

a. Strategic Plan 2023-2026 - the document still needs to be amended.

6. **New Business**

a. Board of Trustees approved purchasing Christmas gifts for staff.

7. **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was presented by Ashley Peterson with support from Claudia Chapman. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm. The next meeting is January 16, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Peterson
Board Secretary