

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 22, 2015
9 a.m., MHS Auditorium
Helena, Montana

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Crystal Wong Shors, Bob Brown, Jim Murry, Kent Kleinkopf, Tom Nygard, Janene Caywood, Shirley Groff, Jim Court and Cliff Edwards

Excused Board members were: Jim Utterback, George Dennison, Steve Lozar and Ed Jasmin

Staff present: MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Administrative Assistant, Renee Podell; MHS Development Officer, Susan Near; MHS Membership, Rebecca Baumann; MHS PR/Media Manager, Tom Cook; MHS Museum Collections Manager, Amanda Streeter Trum; MHS State Historic Preservation Program Manager, Mark Baumler; MHS SPHO Community Preservation Coordinator, Kate Hampton; MHS Publications Manager, Molly Holz; MHS Centralized Services Administrator, Denise King; MHS Outreach & Interpretation Interpreter Historian, Ellen Baumler; MHS Research Center Manager, Molly Kruckenberg; MHS Museum Curator, Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney

9:00 a.m. – Anniversary Flag Raising in front of MHS building

The Board of Trustees and MHS staff met for a group photo and a ceremonious flag raising of the anniversary flag “Year of the 150s - History Worth Celebrating”.

CALL TO ORDER

President Crystal Wong Shors called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Jim Murry moved approval of the October 23, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bob Brown and carried unanimously.

Executive Committee Report – Tom Nygard

MHS fiscal matters and Legislative updates presented by Denise King took up most of the hour.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Motion - Crystal Wong Shors

President Shors commented that she has taken many tours at the MHS recently and she can attest to the fact that temperature control, storage and space in the building really needs upgrading.

She reported that she attended the MHS budget hearing at the Legislature and noticed that hard work is paying off because many strong relationships have been formed this session with Bob Brown, Bruce Whittenberg, Denise King and the Legislators.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Bruce Whittenberg

Bruce presented a handout (handout made a permanent part of the record) highlighting the 150th anniversary. He announced that on February 19th Kirby Lambert will be awarded the 2015 Governor's Humanities Award.

Bruce distributed a copy of the MHS Strategic Themes and Critical Issues for 2015 (handout made a permanent part of the record). He outlined the Legislative watch list noting HB2, HB5, HB 155, LC450, LC780, LC1130 and LC1889 all could potentially affect the MHS.

Friday, January 23rd is the SHPO awards ceremony and Bruce encouraged Board members to attend if possible.

Marketing and Development – Motion - Susan Near

Susan reported on the success of the second appeal letter commenting that the norm for the MHS will be two appeals per year. She is currently working on obtaining sponsors for the Russell Symposium and the History Conference.

Membership – Rebecca Baumann

The month of November brought in 74 new members. Rebecca presented a membership report (handout made a permanent part of the record) showing membership at 2,033 members.

PROGRAM MANAGERS REPORTS

Museum Program – Motion Action - Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney

Loan Request from Hockaday Museum of Art to borrow a painting – *Mrs. Star*, Else Jemne (handout made a permanent part of the record).

Jim Murry moved approval for the Hockaday Museum of Art to borrow the painting – *Mrs. Star* May 18, 2015 – July 31, 2015. Janene Caywood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Loan Renewal Request for the Governor's Budget Office, exhibit in budget office meeting room, renewed on an annual basis as stated in MHS Board Policy (January 24, 2015 – January 24, 2016), four art pieces from the Capitol Loan Collection, *Grazing Bison*, *Morning Light*, *Over There*, and *Shep Forever Faithful* (handout made a permanent part of the record).

Kent Kleinkopf moved approval for the Governor's Budget Office to renew the loan request for the following four art pieces: *Grazing Bison*; *Morning Light*; *Over There*; and *Shep Forever Faithful*. Bob Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Amanda Trum Streeter presented a list of the Museum Program's outgoing loans 2013 -2014 (handout made a permanent part of the record).

For show and tell Amanda showed the Board a U.S. Senate Mailbag from the 1940's which belonged to Jeannette Rankin. Film boxes were shown from Lee Metcalf. Amanda explained that film boxes were like public service announcements and the MHS has several hundred films which are now in achievable containers.

RESEARCH CENTER- Motion Action – Deaccession Request – Molly Kruckenberg

The December, 2014 deaccession request list was presented by Molly (handout made a permanent part of the record).

Jim Court moved approval of the December, 2014 Deaccession List Request. Tom Nygard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Loan Request from Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture to borrow one cookbook (1927 edition) for one-year from the Montana Federation of Negro Women's Clubs Choice Recipes and Best Books of the State (handout made a permanent part of the record).

Jim Murry moved approval of the loan request from the Smithsonian National Museum of African History and Culture to borrow for one-year a 1927 cookbook from the Montana Federation of Negro Women's Clubs Choice Recipes and Best Books of the State. Cliff Edwards seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Molly gave a brief explanation of the MHS Core Statistics and presented two handouts for January to December, 2014 and October to December, 2014 (handouts (2) made a permanent part of the record).

On May 2 and 3, 2014, Terri Schindel and Siegfried Rempel conducted an Environmental, Facilities, Collections and Storage Preservation Assessment of the MHS. Molly explained that the purpose of this onsite preservation assessment was (1) to assess environmental conditions, storage, and access issues in the Museum and Research Center, Original Governor's Mansion, and the MHS offsite storage facilities; (2) to assess the condition of collections housed in these facilities; and (3) to make recommendations for addressing preservation issues discovered during the assessment (handout made a permanent part of the record).

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler

Mark outlined the upcoming Historic Preservation awards ceremony and welcomed the Board members attendance.

Kate Hampton gave a presentation on identifying Montana's African American Heritage Properties. SHPO received a grant from the Parks Service in the amount of \$27,000 to study

African American Heritage Properties. She explained that there were more properties in Great Falls but chose to concentrate on Helena's 40 properties because the grant amount would just cover the research of approximately 40 properties. Census information and photos will be available on the MHS website and uploaded to the memory project.

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Ellen Baumler

Ellen gave a glimpse into the upcoming May 14th exhibit “The Chinese in Montana 1862 – 1943”.

PUBLICATIONS – Motion - Molly Holz

Molly announced that sales for the new C. M. Russell book have been going very well. She thanked Tom Cook for his work in promoting the book with the media.

People Before the Park book will go to the printers in April.

Central Services – Motion(s) - Denise King

Denise reported that a copy of the painting titled “When the Land Belonged to God” is now in the Senate.

The care and maintenance of the Woman's Mural located in the Capitol building will become the responsibility of the MHS.

Discussion was held and questions answered on the Financial Schedules for the FY 2015 through December 31, 2014 (handouts were made a permanent part of the record).

Kent Kleinkopf moved to accept the FY 2015 Financial Schedules. Jim Murry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Denise presented copies of the Historical Society Trust Funds Investment Policy Statement for the various long-term investment accounts administered by the MHS (handouts made a permanent part of the record).

Thomas Nygard moved to accept the Investment Policy Statement. Kent Kleinkopf seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Executive Session – Board Members and Director Bruce Whittenberg – Motion

Trustees met with Bruce to conduct his yearly job performance evaluation.

Jim Murry moved to accept the job performance evaluation for Director Bruce Whittenberg. Kent Kleinkopf seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Government Relations - Bob Brown

Bob emphasized the importance of Board members attending the January 27th hearing, the February 2nd birthday celebration and Humanities reception and dinner for Kirby Lambert.

He encouraged Board members to call their Legislators in the long-range planning education sub-committees.

Donor Relations – Bruce Whittenberg

Bruce reported that he and Ed Jasmin met with Blue Cross Blue Shield representatives and a private tour has been scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

March 15th has been scheduled for the closing date for the Heritage Keepers Award applications. Applications will be sent to the Board members for review before the April meeting.

Jim Court announced that posters of Virginia City have been placed in the MHS lobby for anyone wanting one.

NEW BUSINESS

Bruce commented he hopes Board members will participate in as many activities as possible over the next few months.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEXT BOARD MEETING – April 23, 2015 - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Committee – 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

1:25 p.m.