

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**January 19, 2011**  
**Third Floor Volunteer's Room, Helena, Montana**

**Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present:** Jim Murry, Steve Lozar, Sharon Lincoln, John Lepley, Ed Smith, Bob Brown, Lee Rostad, Kent Kleinkopf, Jim Court, Janene Caywood, Crystal Shors and Thomas Nygard. Board Member Emeritus Bob Morgan was also present. **Excused from the meeting were:** MHS Board of Trustee members Steve Carney, Shirley Groff and Jim Utterback.

**Staff present:** MHS Interim, Director Mike Cooney; MHS Administrative Assistant, Renee Podell; MHS Centralized Services Program Administrator, Denise King; MHS Museum Curator of Collections, Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney; MHS Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager, Kirby Lambert; MHS Publications Program Manager, Molly Holz; MHS Research Center Program Manager, Molly Kruckenberg; and MHS Special Projects Coordinator, Susan Near; and State Historic Preservation Office State Archaeologist, Stan Wilmoth.

**Guests present:** Montana History Foundation Development Officer, Peter Hunter; Tom Mulvaney and IR Reporter, Sanjay Talwani.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Jim Murry called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. Steve Lozar led the Board in prayer.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Tom Nygard moved approval of the minutes from the October 15, 2010 Board of Trustee meeting and the minutes from the December 17, 2010 Capital Campaign Feasibility Study Report meeting. Kent Kleinkopf seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT-Jim Murry**

President Murry explained that the meeting room was changed for this meeting due to another meeting in the auditorium. He noted that the Board meeting will end around 3:30 p.m. in order for the members to attend the State Historic Preservation award ceremony at the Myrna Loy Center. He explained that the SHPO employees will be preparing for the ceremony and no one from SHPO will be able to attend the Board meeting.

Appreciation was extended by President Murry for the fine job Mike Cooney is doing as the Interim Director at the Society.

President Murry thanked Crystal Shors for her work on the new director's search. He asked the Board to participate in this endeavor by getting paperwork back to Crystal in a timely manner.

**Campaign Planning**

President Murry announced the names of the following Board members to head up a campaign planning group as follows: Jim Utterback, Sharon Lincoln and Crystal Shors. He asked Board

members that may have extra time to help out the committee. Lee Rostad questioned President Murry on the selection of an ambassador group for campaign planning. Mike Cooney responded that he has been working with Lee Rostad and emphasized that progress is being made towards the ambassador group which he will share with the campaign planning group.

It is anticipated that the next Board meeting will require several hours of meeting time to complete required Board work. President Murry announced that the program reports by program managers will not take place at the next meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **BOARD ACTION - Proposed changes to the By-laws of the Montana Historical Society**

Ed Smith stated that the Governance Committee, consisting of Ed Smith, Shirley Groff and Lee Rostad basically updated and brought the By-laws into compliance with statutory authority.

#### **2.3 ARTICLE III, GOVERNMENT-Part C.**

There shall be an Executive Committee of **“five” (delete the word “six”) and insert “chosen by the Board of Trustees from its members, to consist of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and two additional members. The past president shall serve as an advisor to the executive committee. The Governance Committee shall make nominations for the two members in addition to the officers, at the time of the annual election, and their election shall take place at that time. The Executive Committee shall serve for the period of “one” year (deleting the word “two”). In the event that a quorum cannot be obtained from the regular members of the committee, the President shall be empowered to name acting members from other members of the Board.”**

#### **Page 2, 2.4 ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS-Part A.**

The officers shall be chosen at the third quarterly meeting of the calendar year **(delete “third” and insert “second”).**

**Sharon Lincoln moved to approve the changes made to the By-laws of the Montana Historical Society proposed by the Governance Committee. Janene Caywood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **DIRECTOR’S SEARCH-Crystal Shors**

Crystal presented copies of the State of Montana Job Description and Evaluation (made a part of the permanent record). She commented that a good place to start when looking at job descriptions and evaluations is to start thinking of the needs of the Society, looking at the “mission statement” of the Society and what will help the Society achieve its objectives. She stated that she hopes to hear comments from the whole Board by the end of the month on the job description that has been circulated.

#### **DIRECTOR’S REPORT-Mike Cooney**

Mike reminded the Board that when he came aboard he was asked to prepare MHS for the Legislative session and to get MHS through the Legislative session. He was also asked to implement the beginning of the Capital Campaign, work with the Board to select a permanent director and to deal with the daily responsibilities of the Society. He follows closely the Legislature activities as far as budgeting is concerned as well as bonding proposals. The Capital

Campaign is moving along with the Benefactor Group. Letters were sent to all the people the Benefactor Group interviewed or were invited to interview. Mike continues to meet with Governor Schweitzer once a month to brief him on the status of the Capital Campaign.

Mike brought to the attention of the Board that Denise King and Jennifer Bottomly-O'Looney have been given a security code for entry into the building after hours. This was done because there will be times during the Legislature session when someone will have to be in the building late and because an emergency strike plan had to be adopted. The strike plan calls for management to have the ability to get into the building in case there is a strike. Denise will discuss the plan further during the Finance Report.

### **Board of Trustee's Handbook**

A draft of the Trustee's Handbook has been compiled and Mike asked that each Board member review, make changes and submit to him for final editing.

### **Discussion on Legislative Bonding Bill**

President Murry asked Mike to explain the bonding bill and what it will take to pass in the Legislature. Mike said it has to pass with basically a super majority of each house 2/3 or 3/4 vote of both houses of the Legislature. Steve Lozar commented that the tribes follow the Legislature closely and that they are very optimistic funding will come available for the new Heritage Center.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT-Susan Near**

Susan gave an update on the Capital Campaign (handout made a permanent part of the record). Selecting volunteer leadership opportunities was discussed (handout made a permanent part of the record). An organizational chart was also presented by Susan reflecting how the campaign will be structured with committees according to what the feasibility study outlined (handout made a permanent part of the record). Susan is currently working on timeline tasks. President Murry asked Susan to provide the Board with that information when this task is completed. Susan stated the more contacts the better and she asked the Board to give her names of people who have the desire and personal commitment to history to serve on campaign committees.

### **CENTRALIZED SERVICES/FINANCIAL REPORT-Denise King**

Denise directed Board members to purchase their Legislative copper books at the museum store. She presented a handout that outlines Society services available throughout Montana (handout made a permanent part the record). A Montana map of counties used as a visual in presentations to the Legislative subcommittees was also presented. Denise shared a binder she keeps for presentations and told the Board they were welcome to look through it. It is an overview of the Society. Denise reported that she and Mike Cooney gave a three-hour budget presentation to the members of the House and Senate Education Subcommittees. Distributed to the Board were the Financial Schedules FY 2011 through December 31, 2010 (handout made a permanent part of the record).

Mike Cooney added that the presentation and communications with the Joint Appropriation Subcommittee has been very positive.

### **Legislative Bills**

Denise showed the Board a list of 2,200 introduced and un-introduced (LC) Legislative bills that she monitors. She explained that there are some bills that will have a direct impact on the Society and some that will have an indirect impact. She highlighted certain bills needing close monitoring this session.

### **State Labor Relations Bureau Strike Plan**

The MHS strike plan is in place for the Society as prepared MHS (handout made a permanent part of the record). Denise explained that there are approximately 15-20 FTE's that are non-union.

### **Senate Art**

Denise commented that Senate art will once again be promoted in the Senate and MHS membership will be highlighted in the House of Representatives during the Legislature.

### **OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION PROGRAM REPORT-Kirby Lambert**

Kirby reported on the National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks Workshop. He noted that the workshop will be for 80 teachers for two one-week periods. They will study mining in the far west (1865 – 1920) and will visit Virginia City, Helena and Butte. Kirby emphasized if any of the Board members know of a teacher they would like to give an application to he has them available. Kirby stated MHS was recently approached by our counterpart in China, a sister state, to partner with them in cultural sharing. Applications are being prepared with May 24<sup>th</sup> being the day for finalized plans to be submitted. O & I is once again applying for a Read Grant. Ellen Baumler is working on the application which is due February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mike Cooney announced that the Thursday night public events are starting up again. The first one of the year had an attendance of 50 or 60 people. Mike said people walked out of the presentation saying this needs to be shared with everyone and asking where the press was. He said kudos to Kirby and everyone who puts these programs together.

### **RESEARCH COMMITTEE-Molly Kruckenberg**

#### **January, 2011 Deaccession List**

Molly explained that the January, 2011 Deaccession List is the normal quarterly deaccession of duplicate or non-Montana related materials from the Research Center (copy of handout made a part of the permanent record). **Ed Smith moved to approve the January, 2011 Deaccession List. Sharon Lincoln seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Trade Items for John Esp from MHS Library, January, 2011**

Molly presented a list of items to be deaccessioned. She explained that they are being deaccessioned in trade for items from John Esp. There is a list of 23 items (handout made a permanent part of the record) in exchange for a list of five items from Mr. Esp (presented in the original handout which is made a permanent part of the record). Molly explained that the Research Center looked at both the informational and the financial value of the items. MHS feels this is a fair trade if not more favorable for MHS. Molly further explained that MHS has a policy in place that is followed when MHS trades for items to be added to the collection. **Tom Nygard moved to approve the list of trade items for John Esp from the MHS Library. Jim Court seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**Memorandum of Understanding Among The Montana Historical Society, The University of Montana Libraries, and The Montana State University Libraries.**

Molly reported that the Research Center is required by state statute to have a network in place to share professional knowledge and resources among the archives at the MHS and the universities. This MOU formalizes that network (copy of the original MOU is made a permanent part of the record). The MOU is renewed every five years. **Kent Kleinkopf moved approval of the Memorandum of Understanding. Jim Court seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**The Tom Mulvaney Postcard Collection**

Molly introduced Tom Mulvaney who is a historic postcard collector from East Helena. She stated Tom will talk to the Board about his postcard collection and its potential for a possible acquisition of the collection by the Historical Society. Tom presented a handout (which is made a permanent part of the record). Tom noted that his collection of 30,000 postcards needs to be appraised before Tom or MHS could work to identify a way to purchase the collection for MHS. He said if the Board chooses to pursue an appraisal he would split the cost. Molly commented that the Research Center staff has worked with Tom over a number of years and they would be exceedingly pleased to see the collection become part of the Research Center. It is by far the best Montana post card collection.

**BOARD ACTION-Tom Mulvaney's Montana Postcard Collection**

Mike Cooney clarified that if the Board of Trustees is interested in pursuing the purchase of this collection a motion needs to be made to help cover the cost of the appraisal establishing the value of the collection. Upon agreement, a funding source would need to be identified to pay for half of the appraisal. Mike asked Tom if he had an idea of how much an appraisal would cost. Tom stated it would probably be about \$2,000.00. Tom Mulvaney reiterated that he would pay ½ of the appraisal cost and he would work with the Board to set a fair cost to purchase the collection. Mike Cooney also stated that if the Board is interested in the collection they will have to find a way to finance the appraisal. **Steve Lozar moved that the Board find a way to pay for ½ of the appraisal cost of the Tom Mulvaney Postcard Collection. Bob Brown seconded the motion.** Discussion was held on finding available money in order to proceed with an appraisal. Jim Court asked Tom Mulvaney if he was going to offer the collection for sale right now how much would he sell it for. He announced one card can cost up to \$450.00 and said he would be happy with \$350,000.00 for the collection. He wants an appraisal done because it would be a conflict of interest for him to say what it is worth at this point. Tom Nygard commented that there is no possible way for the Board to know how much the collection is worth. He is a proponent of pursuing the appraisal of the collection. **The motion carried.**

**PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM REPORT-Molly Holz**

Molly presented the latest winter issue of the magazine for the Board's review. She also showed pages from the Barn Book noting that the photographs are by Tom Ferris. She stated that the Wedding Book "I Do" is ready to go to layout. Publications will be setting up the photo processing of the Russell collection. The photography will be done in-house.

**MUSEUM PROGRAM REPORT-Jennifer Bottomly-O'Looney**

Jennifer said the great news is the Historical Society has been reaccredited by AAM. She thanked Susan Near, all of the MHS staff and the Board of Trustees for working so hard on this endeavor. She stated that it is an incredible thing to be accredited four times and MHS is at the top of the nation.

**MHS Security Policy**

Jennifer noted that a security policy is being drafted working towards the best security for the Society. The final policy will come to the Board for approval.

**Glacier Exhibit**

The Glacier exhibit, due to popular demand, is going to be extended through the summer.

**Museum Artifact**

Jennifer discussed the incredible Gros Ventre teepee liner that was donated to the Historical Society from a Haze, Montana family that has held it for generations. There are only three Gros Ventre teepee liners known in existence and MHS has two of them. This will be on exhibit in the fall after the Glacier exhibit comes down.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

April 20, 2011.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.