

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
July 21, 2011, 9:15 a.m.
Montana Historical Society Auditorium, Helena, Montana

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Jim Murry, Steve Lozar, Sharon Lincoln, Bob Brown, Lee Rostad, Kent Kleinkopf, Janene Caywood, Crystal Wong Shors, Shirley Groff, Steve Carney, John Lepley and Ed Smith

MHS Board of Trustee members excused were: Jim Utterback, Thomas Nygard and Jim Court

Staff present: MHS Interim, Director Mike Cooney; MHS Administrative Assistant, Renee Podell; MHS Centralized Services Program Administrator, Denise King; also in attendance for a brief period of time were: MHS Special Projects, Susan Near; MHS Public Relations Manager, Tom Cook; MHS Museum Curator of Collections, Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney; MHS Publications Program Manager, Molly Holz; MHS Human Resource Specialist, Leslie McAfee.

Guests present: Independent Record Reporter, Piper Haugan; History Foundation Executive Director, Amy Sullivan, and Board Advisor, Governor's Office, Patti Keebler.

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Murry called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Steve Lozar moved approval of the April 20, 2011 minutes from the Board of Trustee Meeting. Steve Carney seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Crystal Wong Shors moved approval of the minutes from the Special Board of Trustee Meeting on June 29, 2011. Shirley Groff seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

President Murry thanked the members of the Board for their support given over the past years and he noted he appreciates how everyone keeps moving ahead. He thanked the staff for their professional work ethic and thanked Mike Cooney for contributing his time and talents to the Society during the last nine months. Jim Murry passed the gavel to President Steve Lozar.

Steve Lozar performed a tribal smoke ceremony of honor. He asked the Board members to join him in the cleansing of the past president, Jim Murry. The holy smoke is used to bless him as he continues his journey and signifies the respect that the tribal family has for the person. Steve

sang an honor song for Jim Murry which is a song that has been passed down for generations in his own family and in the tribal community.

President Lozar stated we are starting a new era and that era is in keeping with the spirit in the closeness of the Montana Historical Society. On behalf of the three officers of the Board, he asked for the Board's support, and asked that they remember that healing comes from a good laugh which the Great Spirit has given to us.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Mike Cooney

Mike noted that the Capitol Campaign Committee continues to be active. Additional meetings have been held which included Laura McDonald, Benefactor Group, Inc. The committee continues efforts to educate the people throughout the State of Montana holding local meetings. The first fly-over has been completed and a decision needs to be made when it will be debuted.

Progress continues on the proposal with KTVH Television, KBLL and the Greater Montana Foundation. GMF did not act on the grant request that was submitted to them by the Society but has asked MHS to work on it and to re-submit it. Mike reported that a revised grant request will involve a greater usage of the Craney Studio (MHS Auditorium).

Mike reported that the Society has about 150 volunteers. MHS volunteers are vitally important and without their help the Society couldn't do the many, many things that need to be done. A volunteer appreciation lunch was recently held honoring the volunteers and their service to the Society. He asked the Trustees while they visit the Society for meetings to remember to thank the volunteers whenever they see them. Mike further congratulated the staff of MHS commenting that the Society is running very well and it is in good shape because of its incredibly talented employees.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-Steve Lozar

President Lozar said in-lieu of a report he wanted to thank everyone for their support and asked the Trustees to let the State of Montana know we are their Historical Society and not just Helena's Society. Since the bonding bill didn't pass he encouraged using this time to look at ways to be creative, to address the new Heritage Center and perhaps look at ways to better address the Legislature. Work towards the new Heritage Center will continue with optimism.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT-Bob Brown

Bob reported that discussion took place on the September History Conference noting that the Board meeting will take place in conjunction with the conference.

Bob further reported that a flag that flew over the Trade Center at the time of the 911 attack is traveling around the country. It will be here at the Capitol Rotunda on August 4th. There will be a delegation from each state that will have an opportunity to repair the damaged flag before it is returned to New York on the anniversary of 911.

The application process for the new director was discussed and Crystal Wong Shors will report on this matter later in the meeting.

FINANCE/LEGISLATIVE REPORTS-Denise King

Denise reported she worked with the Department of Administration and the Montana Historical Society to find funding to update the access control for the museum security throughout the building. A new system will be installed and new badges issued.

MHS has been accepted once again for the United Way State Employees Campaign. State employees will have the opportunity to donate to the Historical Society. Denise noted that donations currently go into the non-designated private funds but can be changed in the future to go into the new Heritage Center fund.

Denise asked if the Board members wanted the year end reports mailed to them. President Lozar said he would like the report mailed out. It was decided that any Board member that would like a copy of the year end report should contact Denise and she will send them one.

MOTION-MHS BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES

Discussion took place on HB 120 which addresses meeting minutes. Denise asked the Board to take action on which method they want to use as their official minutes of Board meetings. They can choose from audio minutes or written minutes. **Kent Kleinkopf moved that the official transcripts for the MHS Board of Trustee meetings would be written minutes. Lee Rostad seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

House Joint Resolution 32 is before the Environmental Quality Council. Denise explained that this Resolution deals with the structure and management of programs and to compare those to what is happening in other Rocky Mountain States. Since MHS is considered a cultural agency Denise will be attending the meetings. The Council will prepare a recommendation to be presented to the next Legislature. There will be several options that the Council will review.

Senate Bill No. 3 is currently in subcommittee and deals with the State Preservation Office. SHPO will be reporting to this subcommittee. Mike Cooney explained that the way the bill has been developed and finally written it will give SHPO more work. SHPO has provided all of the agencies an inventory of the listings they currently have. SHPO has done a great job compiling the reports.

Denise stated she is in the process of writing a Memo of Understanding between MHS and Legislative Services to continue funding the Electronic Records Archivist modified position, it is not a permanent position. She said it is in the Legislative Services budget to fund this position.

Denise stated MHS is still in the process of working on a MOU between the Historical Society and the History Foundation for the financial component of the capital campaign. Mike Cooney explained that the Society continues work on the details of the MOU, noting that the Department

of Administration as well as MHS has to agree on the contents. He met with Amy Sullivan recently and the details of the MOU continue to be a work in progress. Jim Murray asked if the final document will come to the Board for approval. Mike Cooney responded that final approval of the MOU will come to the Board for approval.

Denise presented a handout to the Board members for the History Conference (made a permanent part of the record). She also gave a hand out of a Montana State Capital Scavenger Hunt brochure which was prepared by the Education Program (made a permanent part of the record). She announced that the funding for this brochure comes from the Lewis and Clark funds which and is restricted to Lewis and Clark activities.

Mike Cooney gave a brief update on the labor negotiations that are currently taking place. The Labor Union presented their changes in the upcoming contract and has come forward with some aggressive proposals for consideration. The State has accepted their proposals for review. There will be another meeting in a month. At this next meeting, the State will respond to the Labor Union's proposals, however, the Legislature has not given any authority to do certain things that the Union is requesting. Mike said the State has a very good relationship with the MEA-MFT that represents the employees.

SPECIAL PROJECTS -Susan Near

Susan gave Board members WRA registration forms (handout made a permanent part of the record). She asked Board members to please take extras to give out to friends and business associates. Sponsorships are down this year but the bright spot in this year's planning is the great publicity the WRA is being given by the national magazine *Western Art Collector*. Denise reminded the Board that WRA is the Society's premier event to raise money for art acquisition.

Registration booklets for the Mountain Plains Museum Association Conference were given to Board members by Susan (handout made a permanent part of the record). The conference will be held in Helena this fall.

VISIT OF DESCENDENTS OF W. A. CLARK-Bob Brown

Bob Brown reported that two descendents of W. A. Clark will be in Montana from France in late July. On August 1st there will be a reception in their honor and in the honor of other descendents of U. S. Senators here at MHS. He encouraged as many of the Board members to attend as possible. Bob will begin the visit with a tour of Butte, Montana and then proceed to Helena. The tour will also include a trip to Glacier Park.

HERITAGE KEEPER'S AWARD DISCUSSION-MOTION-Lee Rostad

Lee Rostad recommended Mary Mercer from the Eastern district of Montana and James R. McDonald from the Western district of Montana for the Heritage Keepers awards, 2011. A special award will be added this year for General John J. Womack from Dillon.

Lee explained they wanted to give every applicant an award for the work they do for Montana but had to choose those that were most outstanding. She reported that Mary Mercer, from Sidney, Montana has worked with the local historical society in Montana and North Dakota as well, for most of her life and she has been involved in every facet of preserving history.

James McDonald has worked as an advocate in the preservation of buildings and environments. He was also the chief historical architect responsible for the preservation of the Montana State Capitol.

Lee noted that General Womack is outstanding due to being a collector of Montana history over his life span. He will be given the Montana Heritage Guardian Award. She asked Kent Kleinkopf to tell the Board about General Womack. Kent stated that General Womack has been an educator, contributor to many publications, a collector of Montana history and a Major General in the Montana National Guard. Currently, General Womack's library is upwards of 60,000 quality volumes. **Ed Smith moved to award Mary Mercer and James R. McDonald as the 2011 Heritage Keepers Award winners and that General John J. Womack be awarded the Montana Heritage Guardian Award. Bob Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

HISTORY CONFERENCE-Kent Kleinkopf

Kent reported that the preparations for the 2011 Annual History Conference are going really well. He explained that this will be a unique conference because in conjunction with the conference, Missoula will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the incarceration of the World War II detainees. The original court room where the detainees were interrogated and where their life determinations were made is being totally refurbished. Kent noted that Janene Caywood has worked really hard to help him raise funds so the staff can travel for this conference to Missoula. He also thanked Susan Near for her hard work on this effort. Kent thanked Steve Lozar for providing a very generous check from the Salish Kootenai tribal council.

Susan Near further reported that many sponsors have come forward to support many of the components of the conference including several grants that will cover workshops for teachers. She stated that the University of Montana is covering all the costs of the major speaker at the conference. The Native Words Exhibit will be brought to Missoula and displayed and paid for by donations collected through the traveling exhibit. Susan noted that a record amount of money has been raised and there has been great interest shown in having the Society travel once again for the History Conference.

DIRECTOR'S HIRING PROCESS-Crystal Wong Shors

Crystal wrote a letter from the Board thanking Commissioner Kelly for allowing Mike Cooney to stay at the Society longer than planned. She asked President Lozar to sign on behalf of the Board.

Crystal Wong Shors asked Patti Keebler to join the Board for this discussion. Packets were given to each Board member by Leslie McAfee containing the applications received to date, along with helpful materials for reviewing applications. A scoring matrix has been included in the packet. Crystal reminded the Trustees that they want to find the leadership that will guide the Society's talented staff and a candidate that is committed to the goals of the Montana Historical Society just as Mike Cooney as demonstrated. Crystal announced that the Executive Committee will take at least two days to accomplish the schedule set by President Lozar. July 27th the Board will meet once again to review and discuss applications and then the Executive Committee will meet August 4th and possibly August 5th for interviews.

Leslie presented additional direction to the Board members in reviewing the applications explaining that applications are confidential. She asked that Board members contact her if something in the packet doesn't seem clear. Leslie asked that each Board member return their packet of applications to her when they are finished reviewing them. Mike Cooney asked Leslie to explain the proper protocol for Board members just in case an applicant contacted them personally with additional information. Leslie asked that Board members refer any applicant and any additional information to her. Scoring sheets should be returned to Leslie. Any questions from the press should be directed to the President of the Board.

President Lozar announced that the MHS Research Center Program Manager, Molly Kruckenberg, a Union Representative, and a Representative from the Governor's Office have been invited to sit in on the interviews. They will be non-voting attendees. Crystal pointed out that the Board would like Mike Cooney to give an overview of the job and welcome the interviewees and Denise King will give a short presentation on financial responsibilities.

Patti Keebler stated that the Governor really appreciates being included in the process of finding a new director. Patti thanked the Board members for their service to Montana and to MHS. Janene Caywood asked about the reference process. She is interested in talking to people who have worked for the applicant and wondered if there was a mechanism for doing this kind of investigating. HR will give pointers for reference checking. Once the top two or three applicants are chosen they will be informed that references will now be checked. At this time, HR can ask the applicant to provide additional references or names of former employees to be contacted. Kent Kleinkopf asked who will make the reference check calls. Crystal stated that Leslie will direct the Executive Committee members on this point.

Crystal Wong Shors reminded the Trustees that they are welcome to contact her if they have any questions and she will then contact Leslie if need be.

RUSSELL CATALOG UPDATE-Molly Holz

Molly stated that the writing and photography of the book project is going well. Photographing the images would have color consistency and this is an opportunity to photograph all of the Russell images, drawings and sculptures in the collection. She noted that there has been concern that the color is accurate in the book. Molly explained that the images are being photographed

and files will be uploaded to a commercial printer. They are being photographed with a color bar on the print. These digital images are going to be the museum's archival copies forever after. Molly said there is incredible detail in the paintings. Denise King commented that the funding for this equipment came from the money that Jim Court raised for the Russell book project and will be used for a long time at the Society.

Molly announced that the barn book is now printed. A book release and barn dance event will take place at the Kleffner Ranch on October 1st. She highly complimented Tom Ferris as a great photographer.

RESEARCH PROGRAM-MOTIONS-Brian Shovers

Brian presented the April, 2011 deaccession list (handout made a permanent part of the record). The money from the sales of the deaccessioned items is put into the general acquisition fund for the Society. **Jim Murry moved approval of the April, 2011 deaccession list. Crystal Wong Shors seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Brian asked that the Board members consider raising the deaccession list from 200 titles to 1,000 titles per quarter. He is asking for a one-time large request. Housekeeping in the stacks needs to be done to clean out some books that are not Montana related. **Sharon Lincoln moved approval of staff's recommendation for the one-time large request from the usual 200 titles to 1,000 titles on the deaccession list. Shirley Groff seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

MUSEUM PROGRAM LOAN REQUEST(S)-MOTIONS-Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney

Jennifer stated that the **Glenbow Museum, Calgary** is requesting the loan of *Indian Hunters' Return* by C. M. Russell to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Calgary Stampede (handout made a permanent part of the record). Jennifer noted that the painting would be loaned from May 1, 2012 to August 15, 2012. Discussion took place on the loan with Jennifer stating that this painting is not currently being displayed because of work that needs to be done on the frame. **Jim Murry moved approval of the loan request made by the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. The loan of the painting *Indian Hunters' Return* by C. M. Russell is to be made according to staff recommendations from May 1, 2012 through August 15, 2012. Bob Brown seconded the motion which carried. Lee Rostad and Shirley Groff voted in opposition to the loan.**

Jennifer presented a letter written by Jack Lepley (handout made a permanent part of the record). Jack is asking to rotate **Scriver's No More Buffalo series sculptures** in the Fort's new building in partnership with MHS. Jennifer explained that the Society does not have space to exhibit a lot of the Scriver pieces so this is a unique opportunity. Jack Lepley commented that this opportunity would get the pieces out within the State of Montana and the collection would be promoted. **Jim Murry moved approval of staff's recommendation to rotate Scriver's No More Buffalo series sculptures in the Fort Benton Museum's new building in partnership with MHS. Ed Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Loan/Rotation of Scriver Bronzes for Helena Regional Airport

Jennifer stated the following item on the agenda is for Board discussion. There has been interest of possibly loaning some of the Scriver bronzes from the Rodeo and Wildlife Series, on a rotational basis, to the Helena Regional Airport. As a part of this possible scenario, the Helena Regional Airport would provide secure locked exhibit cases for the bronzes. The bronzes would be designed to promote the MHS as well as enhance the general ambiance of the airport. Jennifer explained that the loan would require an exception to the MHS outgoing loan policy which states that cataloged items must be loaned to qualified museums, galleries, historical societies, or educational institutions. A qualified institution is an institution that can provide evidence of its ability to care for its own collections in compliance with generally accepted museum standards as defined by the American Association of Museums. Jennifer noted that the airport does not fit under this normal Board policy. In discussion, Jennifer stated that if the Board wants to consider this loan, a formal letter of request will need to be made.

Mike Cooney stated that the former Museum Manager had conversations with Ron Mercer, Manager of the Helena Regional Airport, in regard to filling space at the airport with MHS artifacts and bronzes. Mike said that the people that were involved in the conversations are no longer with the Society. Airport personnel feel commitments were made and have not been followed up on as of this date. Due to MHS' outgoing loan policy the Board will have to decide if it wants to make an exception. Mike said possibly Jim Utterback may be able to add to this discussion but since he isn't in attendance during this Board meeting we will have to wait until he can respond. Mike suggested that the Board ask the Airport Board to make a formal request that can be discussed by the MHS Board.

Crystal Wong Shors commented that exceptions to policy must be considered carefully. She noted that there are hours when there is hardly anyone at the airport and a cased exhibit offers a certain amount of protection but it is not infallible. Crystal stated we must consider precedent. Does MHS have a bronze for every airport in the state?

Sharon Lincoln stated that the airport personnel will need to be informed that a previous employee made decisions that were never discussed with the MHS Board.

Steve Carney suggested that the Society give prints to the airport.

Kent Kleinkopf said he would like to have Jim Utterback discuss this matter at the next Board meeting.

President Lozar tabled this item until the next Board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Crystal Wong Shors said she will have the guest editorial letter written by next week for the Board's approval which will go to newspapers.

Tom Mullvaney Post Card Collection

Sharon Lincoln inquired as to what happened with the appraisal of the Tom Mullvaney post card collection. Mike Cooney explained that the appraisal came back higher than it was originally thought it would be. Board members were polled and it was agreed that MHS would again split the additional costs between Tom and the Society. The post card collection will come to the Society where it will be viewed by the appraiser. He stated that no money has been spent and no work has been done except to try to find an appraiser and to have the appraiser state how much the appraisal will cost.

Board of Trustees By-Laws-MOTION-Mike Cooney

Mike Cooney explained that final action needs to be taken on the BOT By-Laws. Discussion took place on naming or not naming specific program committees. Mike suggested a generic statement in the By-Laws for program committees.

Crystal Wong Shors stated that the Board doesn't need to hamper themselves with something in the By-Laws that limits flexibility. Committee assignments can be put in the minutes on a need basis.

Sharon Lincoln said that the Executive Committee is the only committee mentioned in the statutes.

Ed Smith said it was a good idea to have Board members on various committees in order to have over sight and collaboration with the various programs within the organizations. He stated perhaps wording could be inserted wherein the Board may establish committees upon recommendation of the President of the Board.

Ed Smith moved that the By-Law changes be approved with the addition that the President of the Board, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, may establish program committees on an annual or ad hoc basis. Lee Rostad seconded the motion. Discussion took place on the interaction of program committees with the staff and the importance of having a mission and an agenda when a committee is organized.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEXT MEETING: Missoula, History Conference, September 22, 2011

The Board meeting will take place at the Missoula Chamber of Commerce Building located at 825 East Front Street at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.