**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**January 21, 2016**

**Noon, MHS Auditorium**

**Helena, Montana**

**Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members** **present**: Bob Brown, Tom Nygard**,**

Kent Kleinkopf, Crystal Wong Shors, Steve Lozar, Jude Sheppard, Jim Court, Chuck Johnson, and Jim Utterback.

**Excused Board members:** George Dennison, Cliff Edwards, Ed Jasmin,Thomas Minckler and Shirley Groff.

**Absent members:** Janene Caywood

**Staff present:** MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Membership Coordinator, Rebecca Baumann; MHS Development and Marketing Officer, Susan Near; MHS PR/Media Manager, Tom Cook; MHS SHPO Manager, Mark Baumler; MHS Publications Manager, Molly Holz; MHS Centralized Services Administrator, Denise King; MHS Outreach & Interpretation Manager, Kirby Lambert; MHS Museum Senior Curator, Jennifer Bottomly-O’looney; MHS Research Center Manager, Molly Kruckenberg

The Board enjoyed lunch and watched a short video produced by Greg Painter from Fastsigns in Helena that showcased the de-installation of the John Clarke exhibit and the installation of the Stan Lynde exhibit.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Bob Brown called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. Joy Lewis took roll call.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Jim Court moved approval of the October 15, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Steve Lozar and carried unanimously.**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Bob Brown**

President Brown shared some wise anecdotes that he had gleaned from an old friend and older still, anecdotes from important events in 1793 French history.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Kent Kleinkopf reviewed the discussion about the Director’s salary increase. He, along with Bruce Whittenberg and Bob Brown met with the Director of Business and Economic Research in Missoula a month and a half ago to discuss the possibility of having them conduct an economic impact study of the Historical Society on the state of Montana beginning sometime in March. Kent will introduce a motion later in the meeting to have the Director explore funding for the study. He said that having that study in hand will give all of us a base foundation and a document to use in any situation including the upcoming legislative season. He said that next week Legislative Audit will be starting a new MHS audit. The 150th Anniversary Celebration is coming up on February 6 at the Montana Club.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Bruce Whittenberg**

Bruce talked about the Stan Lynde exhibit and the effort and great work that all the museum staff put forth to make it happen. He reported that ticket sales for the 150th Anniversary were selling well and he thanked those Board members who had donated items to the auction. He reviewed year-end appeal gifts and the $67,000 grant from the Greater Montana Foundation to create a pilot project for broadcast media and film archives at MHS.

Bruce reviewed highlights from the December 8, 2015, Strategic Planning meeting. During the meeting the group discussed and reviewed:

* the vision and mission of MHS,
* the marketing and development plan,
* an economic analysis and impact study,
* “digital access” as a portal to the MHS research experience,
* analyzing and boosting Museum admission numbers,
* the creation of a Digital Strategies team;

the preservation of digital material,

exploring e-mail strategies to facilitate member communication,

* developing a collections/acquisition plan and addressing storage issues,
* assessing the HVAC needs in the building,
* assessing our behind-the-scenes tours and streamlining the process,
* outreach and relationship building – specifically revisiting a tribal advisory committee for MHS,
* refining the Sleeping Child conference that Molly Holz organized,
* having one Board of Trustee meeting a year in another part of the State to enhance our presence statewide,
* the development of bench strength in our key programs and maintaining sustainability and;
* developing priorities and proposals for the upcoming legislative session.

Bruce asked for new staff introductions. Denise King introduced Rennan Rieke, who filled the ITSD position. Mark Baumler introduced Brad Hansen as the new SHPO grants manager.

Bob relayed a story about his friend, Claudette Morton, who owns the desk that was Jimmy Stewart’s in the movie, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. She would like to donate it to MHS. She talked to Bruce about the donation and he relayed an interesting coincidence concerning the desk. Stephen Maly from HCTV is doing a lecture series this spring on corruption in government. The session will conclude with the showing of the movie in the MHS auditorium and Ms. Morton offered to loan him the desk as a prop.

**Marketing and Development – Susan Near**

Sue provided information on some society-wide cash funds that came in during the last quarter of 2015 and totaled over $200,000. She highlighted the major donations - $67,000 from the Great Montana Foundation for the Research Center grant, $50,000 from the Louis Borick Foundation for the Heritage Center, $36,500 from the Treacy Foundation for the Museum storage project grant, an individual donation of $10,665 for the Museum program, $10,000 from the Liatus Foundation, and a number of sponsorships. The end-of-year appeal letter brought in $24,500 which includes the individual donation of $10,665. Sue reported that the Rocky Mountain Credit Union agreed to sponsor the Stan Lynde exhibit and donated $2,500. She gave an overview of the sponsors for the 150th Gala celebration and reviewed some of the great donations for the silent and live auctions.

**Membership – Rebecca Baumann**

Rebecca reported that membership is doing very well and has doubled in the last five years. She said that this figure can be attributed to the hard work that everyone does at MHS. The November membership drive netted 57 new members – a record number.

**MHS PR/Media Manager – Tom Cook**

Tom passed out a handout documenting the locations of all the latest TV media alerts for MHS events and news-worthy items and explained the importance of connecting with the public this way. Tom talked about some of the other media venues they used for publicizing different events and holiday programs.

**PROGRAM MANAGERS’ REPORTS:**

**MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action -- Jennifer Bottomly-O’looney**

Jennifer Bottomly-O’looney started out with good news in the form of a “show and tell.” In 2003 a pipe bag was stolen from the museum and was finally returned because of Jerry McGee’s diligence in researching the theft. Amanda presented the bag. Jerry gave an overview of the story of the theft and return of the pipe bag. The thief was Jeffrey Stephens from California and his method was to hit smaller museums and steal a small amount of items that he could easily conceal. He was eventually caught but died in 2005 and was never prosecuted. Discussion followed about how he pulled off the theft, how long he had been thieving from museums (since 1969), and the significance of pipe bags for Indian people.

Jennifer shared some paperwork documenting a loan request from the C. M. Russell Museum for borrowing several paintings for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Organic Act, and an exhibition entitled *Going to the Sun: Artists in Glacier Park*. **A motion was made by Tom Nygard to approve the loan of the paintings to the C.M. Russell Museum for the exhibit and celebration. Crystal Shors seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

She gave an overview of the Tribal Relations Training that Rowena Harrington attended.

**RESEARCH CENTER – Motion Action -- Deaccession Request – Molly Kruckenberg**

Molly presented the deaccession list and asked for a motion to approve the list. **Jim Utterback moved to approve the list. Jude Sheppard seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.**

Molly handed out a specialty deaccession request for Vol II of Simon Greenleaf’s, *A Treatise on the Laws of Evidence*. The volume was formally the property of President Abraham Lincoln’s law firm. It will be donated to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum in Springfield, IL. **Jim Court moved to approve the deaccession. Kent Kleinkopf seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.**

She presented the pilot project to establish a Film and Media Archives at the MHS. This project is funded by the Greater Montana Foundation. It is a 12-month project that will pay for film archivist, Jenny Graves’ position and establish an important and much needed film archive for the state.

She handed out the Core Statistics from October to December, 2015.

**OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Kirby Lambert**

Kirby described the video project they are working on with Mary Jane Bradbury. He showed a film clip of Bradbury telling Nancy Russell’s story as part of a video tour of the Capitol and the Russell gallery. The educational video will be used for schools and other institutions that are not able to visit the museum.

**PUBLICATIONS – Molly Holz**

Molly reported that the latest issue of the magazine is out and the lead article, by Michael Miller is about the XIT Ranch in Texas and Montana. It is the result of a Bradley Fellowship here at MHS.

She presented the next book, *Beyond Schoolmarms* *and Madams*, *Montana Woman’s Lives*. The book was created from the Woman’s History Matters project blog. The next book they are working on is

*Range Rhymes and Bunkhouse Ballads* edited by Mike Korn and Glenda Bradshaw.

**CENTRAL SERVICES – Motion-Denise King**

Denise explained that the Auditors are back and will be with us three-to-six weeks and will be in and out over the next six to eight months. She reviewed the financial schedules for fiscal year 2015. She reviewed the collective bargaining agreement with the Union. She requested an action item for Bruce’s pay increase. **Jim Utterback moved to approve Bruce’s pay increase of 50 cents/hour that was approved at the last legislative session. Crystal Shors seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.**

2:00 P.M. Break

Meeting reconvened at 2:15 P.M.

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler**

Mark talked about the year of SHPO with the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. There will be a variety of activities to focus on bringing attention to the 50th throughout the year. As part of the celebration they will produce a poster that will feature the National Register, co-sponsor the Preservation Road Show in Red Lodge this spring, facilitate a workshop on the National Register process and produce a playing card deck that will feature Montana National Register properties from each county. Diane Hall and Jessica Bush presented a viewing of the cards and how the project came together.

**Committee Reports:**

**Government Relations -** Bob Brown is meeting with Lt. Governor Mike Cooney this afternoon. There was some discussion aboutwhether the Governor might call a “Special Session” to deal with infrastructure problems in the Bakken.

**Donor Relations – Ed Jasmin and George Dennison**

No report.

**New Business**

Kent Kleinkopf briefly discussed the economic impact study proposal. **Kent moved that the Board empower the Director to explore funding for an economic impact of the MHS. Steve Lozar seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.** Steve Lozar commented that he was very much in support of this study.

Jude Sheppard proposed that a limited addition of the Charlie Russell book be a “Live” auction item. If each Trustee would contribute $20 she will make up the difference.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEXT BOARD MEETING – April 21 - 9:00 a.m. - Executive Committee – 8:00 a.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Tom Nygard made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kent Kleinkopf seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. Bob adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m**.

***“The reason that this Society as a whole is going full blast is that we simply can’t believe that full support won’t be forthcoming.”* – K. Ross Toole, 1954**