

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
July 18, 2019
9:00 A.M. MHS Auditorium
Helena, Montana

CALL TO ORDER

President Tom Nygard called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Joy Lewis took roll call.

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Tom Nygard, Bob Brown, Kent Kleinkopf, Ed Jasmin, Hal Stearns, Chuck Johnson, Jude Sheppard, Steve Lozar, Cliff Edwards, Crystal Shors, Thomas Minckler and Mike Shields.

Excused Board members: Jim Court

Absent Board members: Sam Phares and Doug MacDonald

Staff present: MHS Director, Bruce Whittenberg; MHS SHPO Program Manager, Mark Baumler, MHS Centralized Services Administrator, Denise King; MHS Education Outreach Program Manager, Kirby Lambert; MHS Research Center Program Manager, Molly Kruckenberg; MHS Publications Manager, Diana Di Stefano; MHS Museum Program Manager, Jennifer Bottomly O'looney and Curator of Collections, Amanda Streeter Trum.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Ed Jasmin moved approval of the April 18, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Chuck Johnson and passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Tom Nygard

Tom Nygard said that it has been a pleasure and honor to serve as the Board President for the past two years and thanked everyone for their support.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Hal Stearns

Hal discussed SB 338 and the victory we celebrate for all museums and preservation efforts. He talked about the way forward and developing an approach to the News Media with the same united message tailored for each regional news organization. He recommended using a consulting firm to help with ideas to fundraise for the Heritage Center.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bruce Whittenberg

Bruce shared highlights from the past 4 months.

Legislature Overview, Book release, History Conference, Teacher Workshops, Centennial Farm & Ranch Explore, Explore Big, Barbara Van Cleve photograph collection, Ice Age Homeland Exhibit.

He reviewed the Membership & Development figures and reported that membership is up 5%, the mid-year appeal has brought in \$26,100 and we have 84 new donors. The total year-to-date donations are \$320,431.00 most of which is designated by the donors.

Bruce gave a Legislature Overview of the bills that the Board looked at in the April meeting. The Budget Bill, HB2, did not help us out much this year. HB 9 Cultural & Aesthetics Grant Program, funded through Coal Tax Revenues passed and MHS is getting some funds. HB 766, a proposal to create a local history commission did not pass. HB 623 was tabled the Appropriations Committee. This Bill would have changed the Heritage Center plans and created a History Center on the Capitol Mall site. SR 18 confirmed seven trustees for the MHS Board. He handed out a recap of SB 338 that passed on the last day of the 2019 Legislature. Bruce recognized the various groups and organizations and individuals who supported the Bill. He recognized Sen. Terry Gauthier who carried the bill and Rep. Julie Dooling who motioned to blast the bill from the Taxation Committee onto the House Floor at the 11th hour, and Sen Jill Cohenour who drafted the original bill.

Bruce introduced Lauren Berka from the Director's Office of the Department of Administration (DOA) and Russ Katherman from the Architecture and Engineering Division of the DOA who gave a recap of the analysis they are doing for site selection for the Montana Heritage Center. HB 5 required the DOA to reevaluate the site selection process and the design of the new building project. Lauren showcased the new website that allows the public to comment and follow the project. It can be accessed through the MHS website. She explained that they are focused on getting their site evaluations completed and the data tabulated to present to John Lewis (DOA) director for his final site selection. Russ explained that SB 338 appropriates the funds to the DOA to oversee. He talked about the committee structures: John Lewis - Project Manager, Building Committee - A&E, Staff from the Society, general services, a Department of Commerce Representative, a Public Representative, and two Legislators. The Steering Committee takes its direction from Director John Lewis, and directs the Building Committee. The Committee consists of Lauren, Russ, Bruce and the President of the MHS Board of Trustees. Many questions and much discussion followed.

New Staff Introductions – Molly introduced Sierra Ross who is working on Digital Newspaper Projects. Diana Introduced Micah Fields, the new Associate Editor, and Kirby introduced Anthony Schrillo, the new Tour Guide and for the OGM.

Cliff Edwards motioned to approve the new staff: Sierra Ross, Chris Gray, Micah Fields, Anthony Schrillo and Christine Brown, and it was seconded by Ed Jasmin. The motion passed unanimously.

Bruce showcased a photo of the mural of Great Falls Glacial Lake that will be installed in the Ice Age Exhibit. MHS has paid \$150,000 toward the \$250,000 we owe for the Barbara Van Cleve collection. The Craney Film & Archives funding is steady and there are more and more new films available on the MHS website.

Break

Meeting resumed:

Bruce reiterated that being patient doesn't mean doing nothing and he urged Trustees to write a personal letter to John Lewis and to please urge friends and family to visit the website to submit their comments.

RESEARCH CENTER – Motion Action – Molly Kruckenberg

Molly explained that the Explore Big Application is now being handled by Outreach & Interpretation. She reported they have received additional funding for the Film Archive Project. They received a grant from the Greater Montana Foundation to help with reformatting with some digitization of some of the KRTV films. The National Film Preservation Foundation granted some money to help with finishing the Daly Mansion collection project. There are six films already available. A summer Intern worked on digitizing the Crow Indian photos from the Bud Lake collection that are now available on line at the Montana Memory Project. The Newspaper Digitation Project is proceeding smoothly thanks to an NEH grant.

Molly asked the Board to approve the 2nd Quarter Deaccession list.

Ed Jasmin made a motion to approve the Deaccession list. Chuck Johnson seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action – Jennifer Bottomly O’looney

Jennifer reported that the Ice Age Exhibit Murals will be installed by mid-August. The artist is Karen Carr.

Jennifer requested approval of two different loan requests from the CM Russell Museum and the Yellowstone Art Museum for 8 watercolors, 1 painting and 1 sculpture.

Steve Lozar made a motion to approve the loan of eight O.C. Seltzer watercolors and one painting to the CM Russell Museum. Ed Jasmin seconded it and the motion passed unanimously. Ed Jasmin made a motion to approve the loan of a sculpture by Bill Stockton; *From Where the Sun Stands Now, I Will Fight No More Forever* to the Yellowstone Art Museum. Cuck Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Amanda showcased a “new donation” of a wooden sculpture by John Clarke.

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Kirby Lambert

Kirby said they have been busy. He passed around the History Conference Programs. The 50th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon landing is coming up for July’s second Saturday event. A Smithsonian Documentary on the Moon Landing will have several showing that day as well. Christine Brown’s slide show on Montana in the year 1969 will be shown on that day too and Board Members will get a preview of that during lunch today. Explore Big is moving along. The Centennial Farm and Ranch Program is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Christine is heading up the Program with new signs for properties. Martha Kohl talked about the Teacher Leadership workshops MHS sponsored to address and facilitate curriculum development. Kirby touted Katie’s creative designing and planning efforts for the celebration in July for the passage of the SB 338 for the Heritage Center Building.

PUBLICATIONS – Diana Di Stefano

Diana reported that the Summer issue has been mailed. It’s the first issue that she can call her own. They’ve introduced a new commentary section in the magazine. They are celebrating two more Spur Awards on articles written by Peter H. Hasrick’s article on Albert Bierstadt and Roger Henderson’s article on the 1870 Marias River Massacre. Laura Ferguson will be traveled to Tucson in June to receive the awards. The magazine circulation continues to rise. The Nelson Story book, *Treasure State Tycoon*, has arrived in the store.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler

Mark thanked the Board for a great run during his many years at MHS and SHPO. It's been a privilege for him to work with a great staff at the Society.

CENTRAL SERVICES – Denise King

Denise thanked the Board for a great Picnic. Fiscal year end is still going on and will wrap up at end of July. There are no Quarterly reports until October. She gave a report on this year's Audit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS – no report

DONOR RELATIONS – Ed Jasmin talked about developing a 5-year plan and creating a donor list of top potential donors. He discussed getting help from a professional fund raiser and developing a 5-year pledge form. He emphasized the importance of getting something moving. Bruce said that in the Executive meeting they discussed contacting Laura Breem and Kurt Meyer in Missoula who George Dennison recommended. Much discussion followed.

Tom Nygard nominated Bob Brown for the at-large member of the Executive Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Kent reviewed a discussion and decision that took place in yesterday's Executive meeting concerning the hire of a Public Information/Marketing person to help support and facilitate the new direction MHS will be taking in the future. Bruce said that the MHS has felt the loss of these positions and it has significantly increased the work load on Program Managers and the Director. The money will come from the Bair Trust which the Board of Trustees approved back in 2009.

Kent moved to authorize the Director to commit up to \$200,000 for two years to hire a Public Information Officer and Marketing Director. Bob Brown seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-NONE

Nominations to the Board of Trustees:

Bob Brown nominated:

Kent Kleinkopf as President

Hal Stearns as Vice President

Chuck Johnson as Secretary

Tom Nygard as Past President

All were approved

Steve Lozar acknowledged and thanked Tom Nygard for his service as President of the Board.

Kent thanked the Board for their confidence in him as the new President and he thanked the staff for all their hard work and support.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT 11:40 A.M.

NEXT BOARD MEETING –October 17, 2019

LUNCH

“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