

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**October 17, 2019**  
**9:00 A.M. MHS Auditorium**  
**Helena, Montana**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Kent Kleinkopf 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, Chuck Johnson, Jude Sheppard, Steve Lozar, Thomas Minckler, Sara Scott and Mike Shields.

**Excused Board members:** Hal Stearns, Cliff Edwards and Crystal Shors

**Staff present:** MHS Director, Bruce Whittenberg; Acting MHS SHPO Program Manager, Pete Brown, MHS Centralized Services Administrator, Denise King; MHS Education Outreach Program Volunteer Coordinator, Katie White; MHS Research Center Program Manager, Molly Kruckenberg; MHS Publications Associate Editor, Laura Ferguson; MHS Museum Program Senior Curator, Kendra Newhall.

Steve Lozar gave a prayer/blessing for everyone at the Board meeting and for his Mother who recently passed away and for the support his family has received during this time.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Ed Jasmin moved approval of the October 17, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jude Sheppard and passed unanimously.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Kent Kleinkopf**

Kent expressed an appreciation for the opportunity to serve as President and to take part in this momentous time in history for the Montana Historical Society as it moves forward.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Chuck Johnson**

Chuck reviewed three items that were discussed during the Executive meeting. The committee was given an update on the Heritage Center selection process, narrowed down to five sites, the official proposed formation of a Capitol Campaign, and an up-to-date financial report by Denise King.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bruce Whittenberg**

Bruce welcomed Sara Scott as a new member of the Board of Trustees and recognized Joy for a job well done for the past 4 ½ years as his Administrative Assistant. Her last day of work is November 8, 2019.

New Staff Introductions – Bruce introduced new staff members, Jolene Keene as Cultural Records Assistant and Jessica Bush as the new State Archaeologist.

Bruce introduced Russ Katherman from the Architecture and Engineering Division of the DOA and Lauren Berka from the Director's Office of the Department of Administration (DOA) who gave an up-to-date recap of the preliminary draft of the site selection process and answered questions from the Trustees. They reviewed in detail, the five sites chosen from the 22 original sites considered with projected images and explanations of each site. Much discussion followed.

### **10:17 Earthquake Drill**

**Tom Nygard motioned to approve the new staff: Jolene Keene and Jessica Bush. It was seconded by Steve Lozar, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT - BRUCE WHITTENBERG**

More discussion followed about the Heritage Center project.

Bruce shared highlights from the past 4 months:

The 46<sup>th</sup> History Conference was a great success with over 300 people registered.

The Centennial Farm & Ranch program has been revitalized with the help of the Department of Agriculture.

A new software package (Versai) for managing all aspects of museum life, is being implemented. The process has been quite a process.

"Historic Montana" is the new (Explore Big) mobile app and can be downloaded through the app store at Google Play. The app program moved from Research Center over to the Outreach and Interpretation Program.

The Craney Film & Media Archives now includes approximately 80 films available through the YouTube Moving Images Archive. Kelly Burton accepted a position at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Ice Age Homeland exhibit was a great event. Amanda Trum and Stan Wilmoth curated the new exhibit. MHS is recruiting for three positions: Public Information Officer, Photo/Film Archivist and Museum Tech.

Membership year-to-year is up 120 or 4.4%. Membership is close to 3,000 members.

Barbara Van Cleve has received \$150,000 for her collection and MHS owes a balance of \$100,000.

Sara Scott gave a brief overview of her background and expressed her gratitude for being appointed to the MHS Board of Trustees.

### **RESEARCH CENTER – Motion Action – Molly Kruckenberg**

Molly started with a show and tell of a recent donation of an Edward Curtis original Orotone from 1900. It was donated by the Hayne Family Trust. She reported that the Research Center received a \$32,000 grant from the Council of Library and Information Resources as part of their Recordings at Risk program. It will go toward digitizing MHS's Oral History Collection which includes 500 of the most endangered oral histories in the collection. It will take about a year to complete the project.

Molly asked the Board to approve the 1st Quarter Deaccession list.

Molly explained the Deaccession process.

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

### **MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action – Kendra Newhall**

Kendra showcased a book called *Good Medicine*, that is filled with illustrated letters by Charlie Russell and donated to the MHS by the Bill Grierson Estate. The book was given to Joe Scheuerle by Nancy Russell. Kendra also described other paintings, photographs and drawings that came in with the Grierson gift.

Kendra requested approval of one loan request for eight art pieces from the Governor's Budget Office.

**Ed Jasmin made a motion to approve the loan of 8 art pieces from the Capitol Art Loan Collection to the Governor's Budget Office. Chuck Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

### **OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Katie White**

Katie introduced herself and showcased a Power Point highlighting the MHS Volunteers, the Volunteer program and the events that took place in 2019.

### **PUBLICATIONS – Laura Ferguson**

Laura reported that Pubs is doing well in part because of Micah Fields joining the team. He's been a fabulous addition to the program. Subscriber numbers have risen by 200 in the last quarter. Tammy and Micha run the Facebook page and numbers continue to grow. Tammy is also on the social media committee and has been doing great job on devising Facebook pages that engage a lot of people. Book sales are up 60%. Pubs is in the process of attracting some new writers with an Emerging Scholar contest aimed at new historians, graduate students and post-graduate students who are wanting to be published. The contest will run to the end of 2019. Laura spoke about the number of magazine authors who presented and spoke at the History 2019 Conference. Dr. Richmond Clow is the winner of the Paladin Award this year. Diana is at the Western History Conference drumming up submissions for the magazine. The Fall issue is out and available for purchase. Laura explained that it is her goal to get the magazine on a very tight and predictable schedule.

### **STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Craig Mrock**

Jessica Bush was hired as the State Archaeologist and is wearing both hats until a new person is hired in her previous position as Compliance Officer. They are conducting Administrative Assistant interviews and hope to have someone on board soon. Craig attended and completed Grant's Manager training in West Virginia that was funded by the National Parks Service. He made some great connections and the MT SHPO program was commended by many of the attendees. Mike Shields mentioned Kate Hampton's new book, *The Best Gift: Montana's Carnegie Libraries*, published by the Montana History Foundation.

### **CENTRAL SERVICES – Denise King**

Denise talked about the fall mailing. She showcased Charlie Russell books available in the MHS store. Denise gave an overview of the Year-end and 1st Quarter Financial Report.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS: No Report**

### **LUNCH**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Kent reported that he and Hal Stearns had met with Curt Miner and Laura Brehm of Curt Minor & Associates in Missoula to discuss putting together a Capitol Campaign for the Heritage Center. He would

like to create a Capitol Campaign Board Committee to launch the process. Bruce handed out copies of a preliminary draft of the “Consulting Services for an Internal Readiness Assessment and External Positioning Study” prepared by Curt Minor and Associates. Bruce reviewed part of the Legislative process: The State’s contribution through the Bed Tax increase that begins January 1, 2020 and estimated at \$38 million dollars over five years. MHS has committed to raise \$10 million dollars and, has so far raised \$3.5 million dollars.

Bruce said that Curt and Laura have proposed a two-phased project that first conducts an internal readiness assessment and then conducts an external feasibility study. He talked about the importance of Board interest and engagement in the process because he cannot and will not take this on by himself. He explained the contracting process with the State and how MHS could use existing funds to pay for it. The other option is to talk to the History Foundation and come to some agreement with them about contracting with Miner & Associates, but we would need to secure the funding to give to the MHF. We cannot use any of MHS State funds to pay for it. MHF would also collect their fees for the project. Bruce proposed that the Board dissolve the Government Relations Committee and the Donor Relations Committee and form a Capitol Campaign Committee.

Kent reiterated that every Board member will need to sign on to make this campaign work. Much discussion followed.

**Ed Jasmin moved to meet with Curt Miner & Associates to discuss the project. Sara Scott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

More discussion followed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**ADJOURNMENT 1:30 P.M.**

**NEXT BOARD MEETING –January 16, 2020**

*“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*