**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**April 21, 2016**

**8:00 A.M. MHS Auditorium**

**Helena, Montana**

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

Kent Kleinkopf, Crystal Wong Shors, Janene Caywood, Steve Lozar, Jim Court, Chuck Johnson, Thomas Minckler and George Dennison.

**Excused Board members:** Cliff Edwards, Ed Jasmin,Jude Sheppard, James Utterback and Shirley Groff.

**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 Curator of History, Margarete Ordon; MHS Research Center Manager, Molly Kruckenberg

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Bob Brown called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Joy Lewis took roll call.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Tom Nygard moved approval of the January 21, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by George Dennison and carried unanimously.**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Bob Brown**

President Brown reviewed the Economic Impact Study proposal and discussion that he, Bruce and Kent had with Pat Barkey of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research in Missoula. The study should be completed in September. He and Bruce met with George Ostrum in the Flathead and had a great visit with him. George has a couple of original Stan Lynde pieces, in particular one that is the very first Sunday comic strip Stan created.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Kent Kleinkopf said that his report will be covered in the meeting.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Bruce Whittenberg**

Bruce began his report reviewing MHS’s mission which includes collecting, preserving and providing access to Historical Society collections, and providing leadership to those with similar goals. He recapped the highlights of 2014 and 2015 events including the March 19, 2014 Charlie Russell Birthday celebration and he recognized the Friends of the Historical Society and all that they do to help out the Society (This year’s Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is May 18). He highlighted the November, 2014 book release of “Montana’s Charlie Russell” honoring Gen and Bob Morgan, the February2, 2015 MHS Anniversary Capitol celebration, the April 7, 2015 receipt of the founding document for MHS (1865 Territorial Legislature) from an anonymous donor, the May, 2015 opening of the Chinese Exhibit, the June, 2015 very successful Russell Symposium, The Richest Hills O & I program in July and August, 2015, the 42nd History Conference held in Bozeman in September 2015 and the February 6, 2016 150th MHS/Montana Club celebration culminating the 150th year celebration of the founding of MHS.

Additional Highlights included:

* Bureau of Business and Economic Research economic study project for MHS
* Museum storage and art racks
* Broadcast Media and Film Archives – develop pilot project with substantial grant from the Greater Montana Foundation
* Digital Strategies Team – develop broad oversight
* 43rd 2016 Annual Montana History Conference taking place in Hamilton and Stevensville on September 22-24
* Public Programs and the overflow issue
* Union Contract settled with Local 4367

EPP Proposals to the Governor’s Budget Office

* Society-wide operation issues – computer hardware replacement
* SHPO funding – Review Board funding for operation, SHPO operations funding
* One Time Only (OTO) Research Center – digital asset management funding
* Personal Services (FTE) - 3 modified positions for 2 years to complete inventory, Educational Outreach position for rural eastern tribal outreach
* Issues for Discussion – funding for state-owned heritage properties, heating, ventilation and AC, and window replacement
* Salary adjustments – state vs market – MHS is part of state broadband pay plan with a starting point of 2006 – 10 years behind. Bob asked about union representation. MEA-MFT represents 32 MHS employees.

Denise and Bruce have met with the architects from the Department of Administration to review the Heritage Center plan. The plan is proceeding at the funding level of $39.5 million and will be included in the long-range planning. The Governor is very supportive. We should know more by the July Board meeting as to what the Governor’s long range planning recommendations will be.

**Marketing and Development – Susan Near**

Sue reported that the last quarter was very successful with the 150th celebration contributing a nice sum of money. She thanked the Board members who supported and contributed to the auction. Last quarter they received a little less than $78,000 from 146 people. She’s gearing up for the mid-year appeal next month. MHS received a $30,000 bequest from the Robert Meyers Trust from Bozeman. She said that we had some large individual donations - $20,000 of which was earmarked for the Heritage Center. She reported that the vast majority of our donors are our members.

**Membership – Rebecca Baumann**

Rebecca said that membership is doing well. She reported on the American Museum Membership Conference in Chicago that she attended. She received the first small museum scholarship awarded by the American Museum to attend the conference. She shared some highlights of her time there. Membership this quarter is at 2,370 members. She provided a 5-year look-back handout.

**MHS PR/Media Manager – Tom Cook**

Tom reported on the Governor’s Tourism Conference in Kalispell that he attended with Sue Near. While up at the conference, he taped three programs at the KGBZ radio station with the two new station owners. He said that Bruce’s idea about a Montana Heritage Tourism Award was a good one. They have been working on getting out the word on the O&I three-city educator outreach program.

**PROGRAM MANAGERS’ REPORTS:**

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

Molly showed a video of the role the Research Center plays at MHS. She explained the program’s mission and processes.

Molly presented the quarterly deaccession list and asked for a motion to approve the list. **George Dennison moved to approve the deaccession. Chuck Johnson seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.**

She presented the Renewal of Historic Records Network agreement (per MCA-22-3-211) and gave a brief explanation. **Jim Court moved to approve renewal of the agreement. Kent Kleinkopf seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.**

She reported that they awarded two James H. Bradley Fellowships (for academic historians) to two professors. They also awarded one Dave Walter Research Fellowship (for local history projects) as a joint project to two teachers.

Molly said that they have three Shrab interns this summer – one is a student archivist, Courtney Kramer, who will be working in Glendive and Sidney. In June another intern will start work in the archives and another will start next week working on the map collection.

Jim Court asked how many medicine wheels exist in Montana. Mark Baumler said that he thought there were 100 located in the state.

**MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action – Maggie Ordon**

Maggie started out with a “show and tell.” Kendra Newhall presented two Edward Paxson paintings that appear to be studies for the mural in the Montana House lobby. They are working diligently on the Hunting exhibit that will open in July and the Fishing exhibit that will open in October.

Maggie shared some paperwork documenting a loan request from the Denver Art Museum for borrowing the Charlie Russell painting, *Free Trapper*. **A motion was made by Tom Nygard to approve the loan of the painting to the Denver Art Museum. Chuck Johnson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Maggie also presented paperwork documenting a loan request from the Western Spirit, Scottsdale’s Museum of the West for borrowing Hart Schultz’s (aka Lone Wolf) painting, *Indian Camp, two illustrated letters,* and a bronze*, Riding High*. **A motion was made by Tom Nygard to approve the loan of the painting to the Scottsdale’s Museum of the West. Steve Lozar seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Kirby Lambert**

Kirby presented a slide show highlighting MHS as a team player. He presented some partnership examples. They recently participated in some statewide workshops working with Title 1 Teachers and brought in 240 sixth graders from CR Anderson school for a variety of activities, and they partnered with the Lewis and Clark Library and Carroll College to bring Timothy Egan to MHS to talk about his new book. Coming up in June is the Mullan Road national conference. Deb Mitchell is up in Great Falls teaching a Charlie Russell workshop which she’ll also be going to Billings, Miles City and Sidney. The partnerships include the Charlie Russell Museum in Great Falls, the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, the WaterWorks Art Museum in Miles City and the MonDak Heritage Center in Sidney. This summer they are working with SHPO and the National Park Service and the Preserve America Youth Summit to travel around the state and participate in hands-on activites. They sent six people to judge at the National History Day in Bozeman recently and gave two awards.

**PUBLICATIONS – Molly Holz**

Molly reported that it has been a good quarter for Pubs. Both Ellen Baumler and Zoe Ann Stoltz have articles in the current issue of the *Montana The Magazine of the Western History*. Molly showcased other articles from the Spring issue. Molly presented *Beyond Schoolmarms* *and Madams*, *Montana Woman’s Stories.* The reception for the bookis scheduled for May 26. They are working on a new book project and it’s built around a manuscript of an interview with Chief Plenty Coup in 1922. Tim McCleary is the editor. The book will feature the Bud Lake Crow Photo Collection.

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler**

Mark presented the SHPO playing cards commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act that created the National Register. They will be participating in the Montana Preservation Roadshow on June 1 in Red Lodge. They are planning for the National Register Workshop at the end of the year. The Preservation poster features the 56 county properties on the cards.

**CENTRAL SERVICES – Motion-Denise King**

Denise King introduced Candi Mullenbach who filled the Accountant/Fiscal Officer position.

Denise reminded the Board that we are in the midst of an audit and as part of that process they pick certain things to review. Two MCA’s that involve staff hires and the State Archivist hire need to be voted on and approved. MCA 22-3-108 – function of the Director to hire staff. At each quarterly meeting if there are any new hires the Board will concur and vote to approve the hire. **George Dennison moved to approve Candi’s hire. Kent Kleinkopt seconded it and the motion carried unanimously. MCA 22-3-202 –** Appointment of the State archivist. **Steve Lozar moved to approve the hire of Jodie Foley as the State Archivist.** **George Dennison seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.**  The Auditors will return in June to witness the Store inventory process. She said that on Monday the new roof project will start on the Original Governor’s Mansion. She passed around the Conflict of Interest forms and the Code of Ethics forms for the Board to sign. She reviewed the financial schedules for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2016.

**Committee Reports:**

**Government Relations –** Bob encouraged the Trustees toput in a good word for MHS whenever and wherever they can and push for support of the Heritage Center**.** He also asked Board members to educate themselves on the impact MHS has on smaller communities and vice-a-versa. Get informed so we can educate the wider community about the importance of MHS’s needs and wants.

**Donor Relations – Ed Jasmin**

No report.

Bruce informed the Board of Ed Jasmin’s health issues.

**Lunch Break**

Meeting reconvened at 12:45 P.M.

Bruce handed out an article by Mark Sundlov entitled “Demonstrating Relevance.” He briefly summarized some important points in the article.

**Heritage Keepers Committee report**

Janene reported that they used the same system Shirley Groff had created for ranking the nominees. They had five nominees. She summarized the scoring process and said that Jim Court had some issues with the process. Much discussion followed concerning the top scoring nominees. **Janene moved that we award “The Heritage Guardian Award” this year to Evan Barrett. Nancy Watts is awarded the Eastern Heritage Keeper’s award and Al Wiseman is awarded the Western Heritage Keeper’s award. George Dennison Seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.** More discussion followed concerning how to proceed with the process for next year’s awardees. **George moved that Bob create a committee to come up with a plan for next year’s award process. George Dennison, Janene Caywood, Kent Kleinkopf and Crystal Shors were appointed to the committee. The motion passed unanimously.** Discussion followed about considering equity and geographic location in the process of picking nominees. The committee will report back at the July meeting.

**Unfinished Business** - None

**New Business**

Crystal talked about the Staff picnic in July, the Holiday party in December and asked for input into what has or has not worked in the past. Discussion followed about past venues and wild experiences in locating some of them. The Spring Meadow pavilion was discussed and the consensus was to choose it if it is available. Kent offered to be in charge of the beer, pop, water, coolers and ice. Chuck and Crystal will work together. Joy will help. Bruce will collect the Trustee’s checks.

Crystal reminded everyone about giving Bruce his annual evaluation. George will forward evaluation forms to the Trustees. It was decided to complete the evaluation in the Fall.

Chuck wondered how MHS events were being advertised. In talking to some people he found out they haven’t heard of the weekly events. He asked about an email list to inform the public of the events. One does exist and Bruce said we might need to let people know how to sign up and also how to access the YouTube videos.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Kent Kleinkopf made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chuck Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. Bob adjourned the meeting at 1:25 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**