

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
April 20, 2017
9:00 A.M. MHS Auditorium
Helena, Montana

CALL TO ORDER

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

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Bob Brown, Tom Nygard, Janene Caywood, Kent Kleinkopf, Ed Jasmin, Jim Court, Cliff Edwards and Hal Stearns.

Excused Board members: James Utterback, Chuck Johnson, Crystal Shors, Jude Sheppard, Thomas Minckler and Sam Phares.

Absent Board member: Steve Lozar

Staff present: MHS Director, Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Membership Coordinator, Rebecca Baumann; MHS PR/Media Manager, Tom Cook; MHS SHPO Manager, Mark Baumler; MHS Centralized Services Administrator, Denise King; MHS Outreach & Interpretation Manager, Kirby Lambert; MHS Research Center Manager, Molly Kruckenberg; MHS Publications Associate Editor, Randall Williams; MHS Museum Collections Manager, Amanda Streeter Trum.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Ed Jasmin moved approval of the January 19, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Cliff Edwards and carried unanimously and included 4 proxy votes that Bob cast for Crystal Shors, Chuck Johnson, Sam Phares and Jim Utterback.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Bob Brown

Bob gave a history and update on the 2017 Legislative process and the Heritage Center bill HB 660 that would raise funds for the Heritage Center construction through a .5% accommodation tax. Janene and Bob discussed the 7-million-dollar bonding authority. Bruce clarified a detail on HB 660 concerning a lease-to-own provision that was eventually amended out of the bill.

Bob introduced the Banking Records motion to re-confirm the Board vote that took place by email on March 9. **Cliff offered a motion for a clean record of the Banking Records decision. Tom Nygard seconded it and the motion passed and included 4 proxy votes that Bob cast for Crystal Shors, Chuck Johnson, Sam Phares and Jim Utterback.**

Bob moved to appoint Steve Lozar, Crystal Shors and himself to form a committee to recommend nominations for Board officers at the July 20 meeting. Ed Jasmin seconded it and the motion passed and included 4 proxy votes that Bob cast for Crystal Shors, Chuck Johnson, Sam Phares and Jim Utterback.

Executive Committee Report – Kent Kleinkopf

Kent reported that the committee discussed HB 660. The Heritage Keeper nominees were discussed. Denise shared the budget woes and the loss of \$450,000 for the next biennium. Tom Nygard will present a congratulatory response request for a worthy individual under New Business.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bruce Whittenberg

Molly Kruckenberg introduced the new Photograph Archivist, Kellyn Younggren.

Randall Williams introduced the new Associate Editor, Laura Ferguson

The 65th Legislative Session

Bruce talked about the budget cuts scheduled for the next biennium. The Governor asked for a 5% across the Board cut and the Legislature added another 5% cut, as well as another 2% in vacancy savings – payroll cuts. He explained that MHS is going to have to tighten its belt in the next 2 years. The pay plan has been added back in at a 1% increase in February of 2018 and 1% in February of 2019. HB 594 that required MHS to sell off artifacts was thankfully tabled in committee. HB 9 – Cultural and Aesthetic Grants Program funded from the Coal Trust Money has declined because of reduced energy resource earnings. Two pieces affect MHS – \$30,000 for the Capitol Campus Care and \$10,000 for the Film and Media Archives.

Film Archives

Bruce reported that if the C & A Bill (HB 9) passes we will have raised \$159,000. He and Molly Kruckenberg traveled to Bozeman last week and secured a grant for the Montana Broadcasters Association for \$5,000.

Banking Records

We negotiated a resolution to the demand by the Montana Division of Banking and Financial Institutions and the FDIC to remove certain records from the State Archives collections. This was a difficult process, and we received great support and counsel from Trustee Cliff Edwards throughout the process.

Governor's Award for Heritage and Cultural Tourism

At the Governor's Conference on Tourism on March 13, Governor Bullock awarded the first-ever Governor's Award for Heritage and Cultural Tourism. The Montana Historical Society had proposed this award as an addition to the conference to recognize and support our friends and colleagues across Montana doing amazing work by telling Montana's stories. The first recipient was the River and Plains Society of Fort Benton.

Bruce traveled to Washington, D.C. with Montana PBS February 26-March 2, attended the Museums Association (MAM) of Montana conference in Kalispell March, 9-11, attended the Governor's Conference on Tourism March 13. He also traveled to Billings March 14-16 to facilitate a planning meeting with the Yellowstone County Museum, among other appointments.

Bruce reviewed the Development Report for Sue Near who was on vacation. There have been 124 gifts totaling \$67,000 - \$36,000 of which was designated for the Heritage Center. The Greater Montana

Foundation (GMF) has donated another \$25,000 for the Heritage Center. GMF has also given another \$20,000 for the Film and Archive Project. The mid-year appeal is coming up.

He reviewed the great newspaper articles and editorials from across the State supporting the Heritage Center. He reminded the Board of the Critical Issues and that MHS is still following our Strategic Plan and working hard on the issues. MHS continues to raise funds for the Heritage Center. The Explore BIG mobile app is up and running. He gave an update on the Original Governor's Mansion and said that most of the renovation work has been completed.

Cliff Edwards said that in the last week of July of 2019, he is bringing to Whitefish a mid-year meeting of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers which he has belonged to for many years. He wants ideas on how to engage the group and advertise the value of Montana.

BREAK

MEMBERSHIP – Rebecca Baumann

Rebecca reported that membership continues to grow.

MHS PR/Media Manager – Tom Cook

Tom talked about the great work the staff is doing and handed out copies of news articles and letters from around the state supporting the MHS and the Heritage Center and articles about Black History month and WWI's effect on Montana.

RESEARCH CENTER – Motion Action – Molly Kruckenberg

Molly opened with the recent donation of the Zieg diaries from Kathy Kleinkopf, Carolyn Underwood, and Margaret Eller. The diaries are their Mother's, Mydas Charlien Capps Zieg, and cover a large portion of the 20th century and include very inciteful memories of the time-period. Molly explained the process of the donation and the sisters shared many humorous stories of their parent's past.

Molly gave an update on the Banking Records process and relayed that the Bank Division was keeping up with their agreement.

She reported that there was no Deaccession list this quarter but they did deaccession several Federal documents that were returned to a Federal Depository Library at the University of Montana.

She presented a loan renewal request for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture for a cookbook that was loaned to the Smithsonian a year ago. **Ed Jasmin made a motion to extend the loan for a year. Cliff Edwards seconded it and the motion passed unanimously and included 4 proxy votes that Bob cast for Crystal Shors, Chuck Johnson and Jim Utterback.**

Molly gave an update on the Film Archives and the storage project. They hired a Film Archivist who will start work in a couple of weeks. They plan to have a fully functional film archive space completed by the end of the fiscal year.

The Bradley Fellowships were awarded to Jill Mackin from Montana State University and Barry McCarron from the New York University. The Dave Walter Fellowship was awarded to Amber Henwood from Savage MT.

She gave a report on the ongoing Montana Newspapers project, an online database portal for access to historic Montana Newspaper – montananewspapers.org.

MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action – Amanda Streeter Trum

Amanda presented the loan request from the Historic Clark Chateau in Butte for the bust of theater legend, John Maguire from May 1-November 15, 2017. **A motion was made by Ed Jasmin to approve the loan and seconded by Cliff Edwards. The motion was approved unanimously and included 4 proxy votes that Bob cast for Crystal Shors, Chuck Johnson, Sam Phares and Jim Utterback.**

She handed out a reference document summarizing the relationship MHS shares with the Museums Association of Montana. She said that MHS has a robust relationship with many of Montana’s rural museums. Much discussion followed about the many small museums across the state.

She showcased the WWI medals of Rich Aarstad’s grandfather.

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Kirby Lambert

Martha talked about the teacher workshops MHS is sponsoring across the state and the great job Jim Shultz, a retired Social Studies and Science teacher, is doing at those workshops. They’ve also been working with MTPBS and the Montana Small Schools Alliance to produce 4 small workshops. She showcased the new WWI website and presented an overview of the new site. Kirby talked about the amount of research and work that went into constructing the site. Kirby said that WWI will also be showcased at the History Conference this fall.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler

Mark handed out the Historic Preservation Fund Annual Report in which the African American Heritage grant project is showcased on page 2. He gave an overview of the proposed fee change for the State Antiquities Database Copy Fees. Janene shared some comments and concerns.

Ed Jasmin moved to approve the SHPO restructure of the State Antiquities Database File Search Request and Electronic Data Copy Fees. Janene Caywood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously and included 4 proxy votes that Bob cast for Crystal Shors, Chuck Johnson, Sam Phares and Jim Utterback.

LUNCH BREAK

Hal Stearns spoke during lunch about how honored he is to serve on the MHS Board of Trustees.

PUBLICATIONS – Randall Williams

Randall reported that their big news is the hire of Laura Ferguson as the new Associate Editor. The Spring magazine went out recently. They are currently at work on the Summer issue. The 2018 Calendar is at the Printers. Recently they accepted a new book, a biography of Nelson Story, by John Russell, entitled “The Story of Montana: The Life and Times of Nelson G. Story.”

CENTRAL SERVICES – Motion-Denise King

Denise reviewed the Quarterly Financial Report and gave an update on the legislative budget process. She presented new books they are selling in the store.

Committee Reports:

Government Relations – Bob Brown

Bob gave his report earlier in the meeting.

Donor Relations – Ed Jasmin

Ed suggested that MHS consider hiring a professional fundraiser. Ed discussed his ideas for fundraising in Helena. Much discussion followed and it was agreed on that it should be on July's agenda.

Heritage Keeper Awards –

Janene worked with Hal and Kent and reviewed the nominations carefully. Diane Sands came out on top and was closely followed by Tony Incashola and Penny Redli. Jim McCarthy came in 2nd or 3rd. She reported her difficulty in choosing candidates because some of the nominees are very important to their small communities. She advocated making some serious changes to the Heritage Keepers process with different categories for different types of people. She also suggested that more Board members participate to reflect a more balanced decision on choosing nominees.

Her recommendations follow:

Tony Incashola, Penny Redli or Jim McCarthy as Heritage Keepers

Diane Sands as Heritage Guardian

Janene made a motion that the Board award the Heritage Guardian to Diane Sands and the Heritage Keeper Awards be given to Tony Incashola and Penny Redli. Ed Jasmin seconded it. Discussion followed. Hal suggested that we consider more than three Heritage Keepers. The motion was amended to include Jim McCarthy as a Heritage Keeper awardee. The motion carried unanimously and included 4 proxy votes that Bob cast for Crystal Shors, Chuck Johnson, Sam Phares and Jim Utterback.

Janene requested that we continue to discuss different categories for the awards. Bob asked Janene to come to the next meeting with a proposal and she agreed to do this with some input from other Board members. Janene, Kent and Jim Court will look at revising the Heritage Keeper Criteria as a committee.

New Business:

The employee appreciation picnic will take place on Wednesday, July 19. Spring Meadow was discussed and Tizer Gardens was mentioned as an alternative.

It was suggested that the Board tour the OGM at the next meeting and possibly have lunch there.

Tom Nygard proposed sending a letter of congratulations to Peter Hassrick, Director Emeritus and Senior Scholar at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, who received a University of Wyoming Honorary Doctorate. **Tom made the motion that he and Bob will draft the congratulatory letter. Ed seconded it and the motion passed unanimously and included 4 proxy votes that Bob cast for Crystal Shors, Chuck Johnson, Sam Phares and Jim Utterback.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

NEXT BOARD MEETING – July 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. - Executive Committee – 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ed Jasmin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion carried unanimously. Bob adjourned the meeting at 1:55 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