

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**July 19, 2018**  
**9:00 A.M. MHS Auditorium**  
**Helena, Montana**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Tom Nygard called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Joy Lewis took roll call.

**Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present:** Tom Nygard, Bob Brown, Janene Caywood, Kent Kleinkopf, Ed Jasmin, Hal Stearns, Chuck Johnson, Steve Lozar, Sam Phares and Thomas Minckler.

**Excused Board members:** James Utterback, Jim Court, Jude Sheppard, Crystal Shors

**Absent Board member:** Cliff Edwards.

**Staff present:** MHS Director, Bruce Whittenberg; MHS SHPO Program Manager, Mark Baumler, Historic Architecture Specialist, Pete Brown; 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 27, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bob Brown and passed unanimously.**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Tom Nygard**

Tom summarized and lionized the work of the MHS staff. He talked about the upcoming legislative session and the work that lies ahead.

**Executive Committee Report – Hal Stearns**

Hal summarized the creative processes that have helped keep the MHS moving forward. He mentioned Janene Caywood’s service on the Board, the importance of the acquisition of the Barbara Van Cleve Photographic Collection, ideas to reward donors and contact potential donors, and the bed tax and how best to use it. He discussed the next Legislative session and the question of which direction to take during the budgeting and bonding process. He encouraged everyone to look out for opportunities, wherever they might be. He mentioned the tour he led with 36 people for the Stephen Ambrose Tour Company based in New Orleans. Members of the tour group came from across the country and the world. Denise King led the group on the Capitol tour. He pointed out the importance of the arts in our world and that STEM should be renamed STEAM to include the arts.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bruce Whittenberg**

Bruce began by thanking the Trustees for the Staff Picnic and said that MHS is doing less with less but doing it very well. Bruce welcomed **Diana Di Stefano**, as the new Pubs Manager and Editor. He talked about the success of the **Montana History in 9 Easy Lessons**. He mentioned the **AASLH, and the MPMA awards**. The Hunting Exhibit and the African American Heritage project will receive awards later this fall from the American Association of State and Local History. The Spring issue of the Magazine received a design award from the Mountain Plains Museum Association which will also be awarded this Fall. **The Craney Film and Media Archives** and, now the MHS moving image channel, received additional funding from the Greater Montana Foundation to preserve, conserve and digitize some of the historic films for the public to view. He reviewed the available films on the MHS moving image YouTube channel. **The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Montana History Conference** is in Billings this September 27-29. It will take place at the historic Northern Hotel. Molly gave a review of the acquisition of the **Barbara Van Cleve photograph collection**. (handout) Molly, Bruce and Jeff met with Barbara at her request. The Van Cleve family is intending to donate the family material at a later date.

**Visitor's Count**, the survey of patrons to the museum, is moving along and will exceed the goal of 200 by the end of the month. Bruce had Program Managers introduce their **Interns and Fellows** for the summer.

Bruce shared his research into past Board Meetings. In 1991, the issues were: 4% vacancy savings, other budget cuts, evaluation of selling the Poindexter collection, Capitol Tours discontinued due to budget cuts - all similar to the most recent legislative session.

Bruce talked about the "Montana the Magazine of Western History" picking up two National awards, the Western Writers of America SPUR award and the Western Heritage award for the article *All American Indian Days and the Miss Indian America Pageant* by Gregory Nickerson.

The **Joseph Scheuerle exhibit** will open September 6 in the Lobby and replace the Fishing Exhibit.

He reviewed the **donations** from the mid-year appeal and donations to date, and three different major bequests that came in this year.

**Membership** is growing through the efforts of Jodel Fohn and Rod Coslet.

Bruce and Denise met with the Governor on June 14. The Governor and Lt. Governor, again pledged their support and commitment to moving forward with the Building project.

## **BREAK**

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

**Kent Kleinkopf made a motion to approve the Deaccession list. Chuck Johnson seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.**

Molly talked about additional grant monies from the Cultural & Aesthetics Grant and the Preservation Foundation to help with the work on the MHS film collection. She described the earliest films in the collection from the Daly family at their mansion in Hamilton. Kelly Burton is working with some folks on a film for the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in Big Sky, MT. The Center has paid for the re-formatting of several MHS films. In June two staff members traveled to Boston for training on a software called Archivematica – software for long-term preservation for archival materials.

## **MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action – Jennifer Bottomly O'looney**

Jennifer reported that the Scheuerle exhibit will open September 6. She said they would have over 70 of his portraits on exhibit. He came to Montana in 1909 and visited Indian Pow Wow events to paint the portraits. They will display panels so the front and back can be viewed – painting on one side and

commentary/drawings on the other side. Amanda presented an example of how the Scheuerle paintings will be viewed. Amanda showcased beer labels from the Langcreek Brewery from Marion, MT. that they acquired from the owners. The Brewery began in 1993 and closed in 2009. Steve Lozar shared a story about the Brewery.

### **OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Kirby Lambert**

Kirby presented a sapphire collection plate that Bob Kane made for one of the Footlockers. They are adapting to life without Ellen and finishing up the Visitors Count. The History Conference brochures are at the printers. The World Montana event that took place yesterday, brought young people together from Iraq, China, Japan, Cambodia, India, Russia, the U.S. and Brazil.

### **PUBLICATIONS – Diana Di Stefano**

Diana introduced herself. She talked about Dale Martin's Railroad book that is at the printer and John Russell's biography of Nelson Story that she's hoping will be out by December Holidays. The special fall Magazine issue will be about Ivan Doig looking at different aspects of his career and Montana's history through his eyes. The Magazine will be in full color thanks to a donation from Carol Doig.

### **STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler**

SHPO Historic Architect Specialist, Pete Brown premiered his film about architect, Daphne Bugbee-Jones that he produced with the help of many others. Mark said that the film demonstrates the creativity of the MHS staff and Pete in particular, and it showcases another capability of the Craney Studio to create content. Pete thanked all the people who helped with film project. Discussion followed about the filming process and touched on some political history about Daphne Bugbee-Jones.

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

Denise talked about how MHS mitigated budget shortfalls through the end of the fiscal year with different funding options. She reported that MHS is in the middle of a security update. Membership is growing. There's a new front desk in the Lobby that helps with crowd control. She passed around the new books showcased in the store. A pre-fire photo of the Sperry Chalet is in the Governor's Office area.

Bruce reported that Natasha Hollenbach from the Research Center will receive the Governor's Award for Performance Excellence. Natasha champions the newspaper projects, the newspaper portal and the newspaper digitization project. She will receive the award on September 13, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Great Northern Hotel.

Denise gave a synopsis of how MHS will pay for the Van Cleve collection.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Tom Nygard announced the new Government Relations/Legislative Relations Committee members; Bob Brown, Kent Kleinkopf, Hal Stearns, Tom Nygard and Chuck Johnson.

## **DONOR RELATIONS**

No Report

## **NEW BUSINESS –**

Tom Nygard recognized Janene Caywood's ten-year service as a MHS Board of Trustee and presented her with a plaque. Janene gave a short speech thanking everyone. Steve Lozar recognized Janene's service and humanity with a Salish-Kootenai honor song.

## **LUNCH**

Thomas Minckler proposed that MHS acquire the gold nugget that was found on the Pioneer Bar on Gold Creek 1857 by Granville Stuart. It is currently part of the Dick Flood collection and the asking price is \$175,000. Much discussion followed. **Bob Brown motioned for the Board President to appoint a committee to pursue the acquisition of the Stuart gold nugget at the asking price of \$175,00.00. The motion was seconded by Kent Kleinkopf and passed unanimously.** Tom Nygard established a committee consisting of Bruce Whittenberg, Steve Lozar, Tom Nygard, Thomas Minckler and Sam Phares to pursue the acquisition. Chuck Johnson inquired about the establishment of a Foundation that would act as a fundraising arm for the Society to help with the acquisitions of this kind. Discussion followed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**NEXT BOARD MEETING – October 11, 2018, & January 17, 2019.**

**ADJOURNMENT 1:10 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*