

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
October 11, 2018
9:00 A.M. MHS Auditorium
Helena, Montana

Board Photos

CALL TO ORDER

President Tom Nygard called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Joy Lewis took roll call.

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

Excused Board members: Thomas Minckler & Sam Phares

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 July 19, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Kent Kleinkopf and passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Tom Nygard

Tom introduced new Board members Doug MacDonald and Mike Shields. He reported that this year's History Conference was a grand success.

Executive Committee Report – Hal Stearns

Hal reported that the group had discussed the Sobotka Fellowship and the acquisition of the Barbara Van Cleve photo collection. He mentioned the new Board Members. They discussed updating the Trustee Handbook. And, they discussed the budget and the most recent iteration of the Heritage Center location.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bruce Whittenberg

Bruce mentioned the **AASLH, MPMA, WHA & AAM awards**. The Western History Association Spur award finalist (WHA) was given to Greg Nickerson for his article in *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. The Magazine was also given the 2018 Outstanding Magazine Article Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum for Nickerson's article. The Hunting Exhibit and the African American Heritage Resources project received awards this fall from the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH). The Magazine received a 2018 First Place design award this Fall from the Mountain Plains Museum Association (MPMA). In addition, the Magazine won honorable

mention from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) 2018 Publications Design Competition. **The Craney Film and Media Archives** and the MHS moving image channel on the website, is powering ahead with help from Kelly Burton. A half time film archives position funded by the Greater Montana Foundation and a Treacy Foundation grant will help with film archive projects. **The 45th Annual Montana History Conference** was a great success in Billings this September 27-29. It took place at the historic Northern Hotel. Billings was a great host. Bruce reviewed the **Barbara Van Cleve photograph collection** acquisition and passed around two of Barbara's photographic books. He talked about the success of the Joe Scheuerle exhibit opening on September 6. He reviewed the AASLH **Visitor's Count** survey project that has since been submitted for evaluation. The survey was conducted primarily with the help of MHS volunteers. Kirby will travel to Nashville for a conference on the visitors count program to learn about how the results effect the MHS. Bruce reviewed the **Membership** numbers as well as the **Donation** numbers. In the last appeal cycle we added 83 new donors by expanding the appeal outreach. The **Heritage Center** plan has been included in the Governor's long-range planning budget. The **Critical Issues** meeting is slated for early December.

RESEARCH CENTER – Motion Action – Molly Kruckenberg

Molly reported on the film archives projects and the new movies presented on the MHS website. October 20 is the MHS Home Movie Day and is part of a National Home Movie Day event. Research has been very busy with presentations and outreach activities. Annaliese Warhank's Brewery project is now completed. *A Taste of the Past – Gathering Montana's Food History* took place in Sidney in September with a return trip planned in March 2019.

There was some discussion and questions about the Deaccession list.

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

MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action – Jennifer Bottomly O'looney

Jennifer reported they are beginning work on an exhibit for the Northeast Gallery that will open next Fall featuring the history of Breweries in Montana. She encouraged everyone to go and view the *Eye of the Needle* exhibit in Homeland that features the creative needle work of woman from the 1880's.

Jennifer said that they had received a loan request from the Steamboat Art Museum in Colorado for Jim Morgan's painting "Spring Meadow – Frog Stalkers." **A motion was made by Chuck Johnson to approve the loan and was seconded by Ed Jasmin and passed unanimously.** There was a request by the Governor's Budget Office for the loan of eight art pieces. **A motion was made by Bob Brown to approve the loan and was seconded by Kent Kleinkopf and passed unanimously.** Amanda gave an overview of the Ice Age exhibit. She showcased a Giant Beaver Skull and a Short-Faced Bear Paw that may become part of a hands-on exhibit in the upcoming Ice Age Exhibit.

BREAK

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Kirby Lambert

Kirby reported that with Ellen's departure he and Martha Kohl have been working hard to keep up with the Sites & Signs Program. They have a backlog of about 40 signs, so they are busy catching up. Larry Petersen dedicated the proceeds of his book to go toward the Blackfeet Heritage Student Research Project. To date, MHS has received a little over \$12,000 from the proceeds. The students from Valier

and Browning schools will be coming down to Helena on October 28-October 30 to participate. MHS is partnering with OPI on the program. Steve Lozar followed up with comments.

PUBLICATIONS – Diana Di Stefano

Diana reported on the AAM Magazine design competition award – honorable mention. She gave credit to Diane Hall who is the graphic designer. She showcased the Autumn (Doig) issue. She said they are working on the upcoming Winter issue of the Magazine. She'll be attending the Western History Association Conference next week in San Antonio, TX where she'll be meeting with authors and the Magazine's Board of Editors. She explained the role of the Board of Editors. She announced the winner of the best magazine article voted on by the Board of Editors - Leila Monaghan's article *Cheyenne and Lakota Women at the Battle of the Big Horn* (Autumn 2017) based almost entirely on the oral histories from native women. She talked about Dale Martin's Railroad book signing and reading, scheduled for November 15. John Russell's biography of Nelson Story will be out by January 2019. She talked about reviving the book idea that's been in the pipeline for a while, *Appropriate Curious and Rare - 150 Objects* highlighting images from the Museum with interpretive essays.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler

Mark reported that they've had a good quarter for SHPO in terms of Federal funding. They ended the Federal fiscal year in the black. The State Preservation Review Board met and accepted three new property nominations to the National Register; one boat at Glacier National Park, the Jefferson Canyon Highway, an MDOT property, and the Cougar Peak Lookout on the Lolo National Forest. Kate Hampton accepted the award of merit for the African American Resources website from AASLH in Kansas City, and she also accepted on behalf of the Museum, the award for the Hunting exhibit at the same time. Mark reported on the agreement they have with the University of Montana, Department of Anthropology to have students work on the backlog of SHPO's geographic information system or computer map of all the locations of recorded historic and archeological sites in Montana as well as surveys.

CENTRAL SERVICES – Denise King

Denise passed out Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest and Fee Waiver forms for Board members to fill out and sign. She discussed the Sobotka Memorial Trust Internship agreement and asked for a motion to increase the dollar figure from \$5,000 to \$7,500 to accommodate the rising cost of living for the interns. **Steve Lozar made a motion to increase the Sobotka Internship fund to \$7,500. Kent Kleinkopf seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.** Denise reviewed the financials from the last quarter and for the end of the fiscal year. Jennifer Bottomly O'looney handed out a recent Charlie Russell Indian Portrait from 1902. Denise talked about the upcoming Legislative session and the possibility of restoring the funding we lost during the last session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tom Nygard announced the new Government Relations/Legislative Relations Committee members; Bob Brown, Kent Kleinkopf, Hal Stearns, Tom Nygard, Mike Shields and Chuck Johnson. Bob Brown gave a short report on the Governor's budget and the upcoming Legislative Session.

DONOR RELATIONS

No Report

Doug MacDonald and Mike Shields gave short introductions and the rest of Board followed with introductions.

LUNCH

NEW BUSINESS – Executive Committee Nominations.

Tom opened the discussion for public nominations to the Executive Committee. There was no discussion. **Cliff Edwards made a motion to close the discussion and Jude Sheppard seconded it and the motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Jim Court to keep the slate of existing executive officers the same and it was seconded by Ed Jasmin. The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

NEXT BOARD MEETING –January 17, 2019, April 18, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT 12:25 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