

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
April 18, 2019
9:00 A.M. MHS Auditorium
Helena, Montana

CALL TO ORDER

President Tom Nygard called the meeting to order at 9:05 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, Sam Phares, Jude Sheppard, and Mike Shields.

Excused Board members: Steve Lozar, Cliff Edwards, Jim Court, Crystal Shors and Thomas Minckler.

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 January 17, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jude Sheppard and passed unanimously.

Bruce gave an overview of Senate Bill 338 that is currently stuck in the taxation committee. There is a chance that a Blast Motion will occur to get it back onto the House Floor for a second reading. He explained the particulars of the bill and how this year, the bill is sponsored and lead by Republicans.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Tom Nygard

Tom Nygard said that there is a lot going on and moved the meeting along with introducing New Business. July 17 is the Staff Picnic at Tizer Gardens and each Trustee contributes \$100.00. Checks should be made out to the Montana History Foundation.

NEW BUSINESS: Denise introduced the MCA 22-3-202, the State Archivist Position, for annual approval by the Board. **Ed Jasmin made a motion to approve Jodie Foley's position and compensation. Kent seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Denise introduced the MCA 22-3-107, The Director's position and salary increase of \$.50/hour, for annual approval by the Board. **Ed Jasmin made a motion to approve Bruce Whittenberg's position and salary increase. Sam Phares seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Executive Committee Report – Hal Stearns

Hal talked about the Legislative issues in play at the Capitol. He reported on a few improvements at the MHS such as better lighting in the building and new motion detectors in the Galleries that operate the lights much more quietly. The Van Cleve acquisition is going very well. He shared a few thoughts on his recent trip to New Zealand and talked about the many great historical and cultural museums they have established in that country.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Bruce Whittenberg

Bruce shared highlights from the past 4 months. Nine Easy Lessons is once again a great success the second time around. The Barbra Van Cleve acquisition is moving along well. Visitor Count is a valuable tool. Membership is up.

Overview of the 2019 Legislative Session:

The Budget Bill, HB2, did not help us out this year. SB 338, Montana Museums Act of 2019 is being closely watched today. HB 9 Cultural & Aesthetics Grant Program, funded through Coal Tax Revenues and MHS is getting some funds and has passed. HB 766, a proposal to create a local history commission did not pass. HB 623 was tabled the Appropriations Committee. This Bill would have changed the Heritage Center plans and created a History Center on the Capitol Mall site. SR 18 confirmed seven trustees for the MHS Board.

The Ed Craney moving image and media archives is moving along with the expertise of Kelly Burton. There are many channels now available on the MHS You Tube channel. Bruce reported that another \$50,000 payment will be made to The Van Cleve Photography collection soon. He praised Sam Phares and his sister for a generous donation that helped with that installment. He gave an overview of the Visitor’s Count from last summer. Membership is up by 193 members from Winter of 1918 to Winter of 2019 and is at approximately 2,800 members. The store has taken over Membership duties and it has proven to be a great venue for attracting new members.

RESEARCH CENTER – Motion Action – Molly Kruckenberg

Molly asked the Board to approve the first quarter Deaccession list.

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

She presented a loan renewal request from the Smithsonian to renew a loan for the Montana Federation of Negro Woman’s Clubs Cookbook for one more year. **Jude Sheppard made a motion to approve the loan renewal of the cookbook and Kent Kleinkopf seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.**

She announced the Bradley Fellowships and the Dave Walter Research Fellowship.

James H. Bradley Fellows:

Adam Hodge of Lourdes University for a project on bull trout in the Bitterroot River drainage
Shawn Brackett of the University of Calgary for a project on normal schools in the American West

Dave Walter Fellow:

Michaela Shifley of the University of Montana for a project on Plains Indian moccasins

MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action – Jennifer Bottomly O’looney

Jennifer requested approval of a loan request from the Hockaday Museum of Art in Kalispell for two paintings and two posters.

Ed Jasmin made a motion to approve the loan for the paintings; *The Jaw Bone Railroad*, by Ralph DeCamp, *Locomotive*, by Robert Goodnough and for the posters, *North Coast Limited* and *Montana* by Gustav Krollman. Mike Shields seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

Amanda showcased a painting by Amy Brakeman Livezey, a portrait of Mary Fields, who was born a slave sometime around 1832. She came to Montana and worked at St Peter’s Mission in Great Falls. She was expelled from the Mission for unruly conduct. Mary was awarded a contract to carry mail between Cascade and St Peter’s Mission was considered reliable and fast.

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Kirby Lambert

Kirby reported business as usual, but that O&I has lots going on. They are working hard on the 2019 History Conference. They have many great speakers lined up including Doug MacDonald and Barbara Van Cleve among others. Montana History in Nine Easy Lessons is a great hit again this year and available for viewing on the You Tube channel. Mary Jane Bradbury has been busy with Tours and Presentations at the Museum.

PUBLICATIONS – Diana Di Stefano

Diana reported that the Spring issue of the Magazine was out. Work on the Summer issue is underway. They are celebrating two more Spur Awards on articles written by Peter H. Hasrick’s article on Albert Bierstadt and Roger Henderson’s article on the 1870 Marias River Massacre. Laura Ferguson will be traveling to Tucson in June to receive the awards. They conducted a Direct Mailing this Spring and received a great return of 4%. The industry norm is 1%. They hired a second Associate Editor, Micah Fields and he will start in May. The Press is moving along. A committee was formed to start work again on the *Appropriate, Curious and Rare* book project. The Nelson Story book will be at the printers soon. Subscribers are up by 100 in the last calendar year. More discussion followed about the *Appropriate, Curious and Rare* book project. The \$49,000 Borick grant will help to fund it and they hope to have it out by the end of 2019.

BREAK 10:10

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler

Mark talked about his visit to New Zealand and visiting the Dunedin Museum. He reported that the Federal Furlough is over but that SHPO is still waiting for their federal funding to come in. They have been looking to the future in regard to applying for grants. He passed around some handouts for grant opportunities through the Park Service. SHPO plans to apply for more funding to expand the African-American Heritage Research Project statewide. They’ve received small grant funding for phase three of the Project through Humanities Montana and through the Cultural & Aesthetics Grant. They hope to create a video of the African/American project. He gave an overview of a new grant program put out by the Park Service, called the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program. This grant would be administered by SHPO for brick and mortar projects to rural communities.

CENTRAL SERVICES – Denise King

Denise showcased three new books from the store. One of them is Larry Peterson’s new book about John L. Clarke. Larry is donating all the royalties from the book to the Montana Historical Society, Museum

Program. Denise provided an overview of the Audit which isn't quite finished yet and provided a review of the first quarter financials.

The Board begins listening to the House Floor debates and votes. Rep. Julie Dooling makes a motion to blast SB 338 out from the taxation committee. The Blast is successful! Much applause follows. SB 338 will now move on to Second Reading.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS – no report

DONOR RELATIONS – Will most likely kick into high gear after the Heritage Center Building comes to fruition.

HERITAGE KEEPER COMMITTEE – Kent Kleinkopf, Jude Sheppard, Doug MacDonald

Kent Kleinkopf explained the process in picking the nominees and said it was an enlightening and frustrating experience because there were some excellent nominations made. The committee's recommendations follow:

For the Heritage Keeper Award

Mardell Hogan Plainfeather, The Extreme History Project

For the Heritage Guardian Award

Dr. Larry Len Peterson

Ed Jasmin made a motion to approve the choices for the Heritage Keeper and Heritage Guardian Awards and Chuck Johnson seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

Ed Jasmin made a motion to approve Mardell Hogan Plainfeather for the Heritage Keeper Award. Chuck Johnson seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

Ed Jasmin made a motion to approve The Extreme History Project for the Heritage Keeper Award. Chuck Johnson seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

Ed Jasmin made a motion to approve Dr. Larry Len Peterson for the Heritage Guardian Award. Chuck Johnson seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

Chuck Johnson expressed concerns about the process of picking awardees. There are professional, clean applications and then the more amateur/avocational applications that are often hand written. He suggested that the Board consider giving a "professional" and an "avocational" award.

Tom Nygard suggested a committee to study the concern. Chuck will chair the committee, with help from Kent Kleinkopf and Doug MacDonald.

Much discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Tom Nygard nominated Kent Kleinkopf, Bob Brown and Mike Shields to the nominating committee for Executive Officers. The election will be held at next Board meeting on July 18, 2019.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-NONE

Kent talked about a friend of his and Kathy's, Naomi Shibata, whose grandfather was taken away during WWI and became interned at Fort Missoula. Ms. Shibata wrote a book entitled *Bend With the Wind* that chronicles her family's journey during that time. Kent would like to bring her to the Historical Society this summer to perhaps give a reading or presentation.

Chuck Johnson congratulated Bruce, Denise and the entire staff "prematurely" for working so hard to bring the Heritage Center building to fruition.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT 11:40 A.M.

LUNCH

NEXT BOARD MEETING –July 18, 2019 and October 17, 2019.

"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