

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 16, 2020
9: A.M. MHS AUDITORIUM
HELENA, MONTANA

CALL TO ORDER

President Kent Kleinkopf called the meeting to order a 9:00 a.m. Karen Rouns took roll call.

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Bob Brown, Ed Jasmin, Chuck Johnson, Kent Kleinkopf, Steve Lozar, Douglas MacDonald, Thomas Nygard, Sam Phares, Sara Scott, Mike Shields, Crystal Wong Shors, Hal Stearns.

Excused Board members: Cliff Edwards, Jude Sheppard, Thomas Minckler.

Staff present:

MHS Director, Bruce Whittenberg; MHS SHPO Acting Program Manager, 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 October meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Chuck Johnson and passed unanimously.

Presidents Report – Kent Kleinkopf

Reminded all to be continually mindful in all your meetings and deliberations with everybody about the fund-raising effort for the consultants. The second part of the contract with Montana History Foundation will be \$50,000 plus, so please keep it foremost in your mind.

We are very excited to have the Governor here this morning at 10:30 for the ceremonial signing of the Museum Act Bill.

Executive Committee Report – Chuck Johnson

Now that the site selection is done, Kent and Chuck will get a letter out to the editors of the newspapers around the state, updating the progress of the Heritage Center. Denise went through the financial report.

SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATION and Q & A

Tara Rice, Director of The Montana Department of Commerce

Director Rice reported on the Montana Historic Preservation Grant Program. Museums and historic sites have from January 1 to February 28, 2020 to apply. Since the application window is so short, we need to

get the word out. Materials were sent out to 2000 recipients. It is designed to support a range of projects, but we have the capacity to go up to \$500,000. Commerce will work in consultation with SHPO and the Tourist Advisory Council to review and score the applications. They will be presented to the legislators next session for consideration.

Montana Heritage Center Update – Russ Katherman & Lauren Berka

January 23, 2020 is the first kick off with the working committees. The site selection went very well with a lot of positive feedback. An update on the roles of the committees and who is on them was given. He has the design team working with General Services Division on relocating tenants and demolition of the buildings north of the museum. This will begin by late summer or early fall. Design will probably take about 12 to 18 months and construction 2 to 2 ½ years. We are looking for a City of Helena liaison for the MHS project. Russ brought up the vision, goal and opportunity list that was created 10 years ago to see what changes or adjustments need to be made. We must have these concepts in place to make the design decisions successful. One of the thoughts was to have an architecture representation of our 8 tribal nations. We need to have the diverse cultures represented well throughout the museum.

INTRODUCING OF THE NEW HIRES:

Eve Byron, Public Information Officer

Eric Groetzke, Museum Technician

Jolene Keen, Cultural Records Assistant; Laura Evilsizer, Compliance Officer; and Melissa Munson Administrative Assistant all from SHPO

Heather Hultmen, Photo Archives

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – BRUCE WHITTENBERG

Governor Bullock and Senator Terry Gauthier will be here this morning for the ceremonially signing of the Museum Act. After 36 board meetings it is great to be moving in a new direction. Bruce was happy to report that we are hiring new employees.

The first phase was for \$25,000 for an internal readiness assessment with Miner & Associates will commence in February 2020 .

The leadership team met on December 17 to review the critical issues document. It was reviewed and revised and is included in the packet. MHS will be re-engaging the Indian Advisory Panel. Kirby and Martha are working on this with Martha taking the lead.

Good Beer Here is a new exhibit opening February 27 in the North East Gallery. Thank you to Steve Lozar and the Montana Brewers Association for all their support. Letters have gone out to all the breweries in the state asking them to support .

Installation of Versai began before the holidays and is going very well. It is a museum management software system. It will manage the store inventories, membership, magazine subscriptions, donor lists and visitation.

Christine Brown is working on *Historic MT* which is an evolution of *Explore Big*.

Membership was 2831 which is up 53 from last quarter. We had 284 donations, 68 new donors last quarter.

RESEARCH CENTER – Motion Action – Molly Kruckenberg

Barbara Pepper Rotness retired in December. They are recruiting for the position. We are working on updating the Montana Livestock Brands. Livestock brands in Montana are to be renewed every 10 years, so we are cleaning up and adding this information on the Montana Memory Project. Becca Kohl is cataloging the Jorud Photo Collection. These records are being added to the Montana Memory Project as well. MHS made a payment of \$41,000 to Barbara VanCleve \$59,000 is remaining. We hope to finish that acquisition by June. We have acquired 4 out of the 5 lots of her photographs.

We need approval to deaccession issues of the *Montana Kaimin* newspaper. They will be sent to the University of Montana. **Ed Jasmin moved approval of the deaccession. The motion was seconded by Steve Lozar and passed unanimously.**

MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action – Jennifer Bottomly O’looney

Freemont County Pioneer Museum, Lander Wyoming is requesting a loan of 24 portraits by Joe Scheuerle. Dates of the loan are November 2020 to November 2021. The borrower will provide fine art shipping and handling and secure a certificate of insurance for the value of the loan which is \$240,000.

Tom Nygard moved approval of the loan. The motion was seconded by Steve Lozar and passed unanimously.

Good Beer Here is our new exhibit. It will open February 27. Roberta Jones-Wallace is creating a coaster that will go out with the invitations. The extras will go to the breweries across the state. An interactive story map of all the contemporary and current breweries in Montana will be launched in August to coincide with the Montana Brewers Association Convention. SHPO will be helping us with the story map. Annalise Warhank and Amanda Streeter-Trum are curators on this exhibit. The exhibit will be phenomenal, thanks to Steve Lozar and his generosity with all the things he loaned us.

Show and tell was a portrait of *Old Many Guns* painted by Maynard Dixon in 1917. It was donated recently by Rex and Judy Rieke.

A request for a new fee schedule for digital prints was presented. It has not been changed since 2004. It is not a lot of money, but it will recoup our costs. We make about \$600 to \$900 a year.

Tom Nygard moved approval of the new fee schedule. The motion was seconded by Ed Jasmin and passed unanimously.

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Kirby Lambert

The History Conference will be held in Butte September 24-26 this year. Kirby is accepting proposals for the History Conference; deadline is March 6, 2020. Christine Brown is working on *Historic MT*. This mobile app takes you on tours of over 1700 national register historic sites. There will be an exhibit on the second floor promoting this. Christine is also working on the Centennial Farm and Ranch program. Through this program, farm or ranch families that have owned or lived on their land for 100 years may be recognized for their contribution to Montana’s history. The ranches will be given metal road signs that can be displayed on their land.

PUBLICATIONS – Diana Di Stefano

The winter issue came out in December. We are working on the spring and summer issues already. The magazine announced the Emerging Scholar Article Contest. We received 14 submissions. Two

members of the Board of Editors will pick the winner. The book *Treasure State Tycoon* is doing very well. *Montana History In 101 Objects* book is on schedule and should be out by the holidays of 2020. We are also working on the book *Biography of Rose Gordon* who was African American and lived most of her life out of White Sulphur Springs. Micah Fields is no longer with us at publications. We are recruiting for a replacement. We are exploring the idea of changing the price of the magazine to \$9.99. It has not been changed for 20 years. Also 20 years ago the K. Ross Toole endowment was started to help support publications the press and the magazine. It has languished for years. We are looking for ways to put it on the donor's radar and get it built back up.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Pete Brown

We are offering our Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage grant. It is a National Park Service Grant that we applied for last March. Kate and Pete are working on the project. This is a two-part application. We are reviewing over 30 applicants. The total amount we have to award is \$300,000. Part one is a screening process. From that pool we will select a few to apply to part 2 of the application where more details of the project will be submitted. The grants range from \$100,000 to \$10,000. We have a great variety of applicants.

Kate Hampton continues to work on her African American Project. She would like to put together a professional documentary. Her goal is to get \$150,000. We have \$50,000 already acquired through grants. We will be applying to the Greater Montana Foundation Funds in the future for more grant money.

Our main source of funding is Historic Preservation Fund from the National Park Service. This annual appropriation comes from the Department of Interior. This year we received \$40,000 extra. We have started identifying projects that we could put that money towards. Laura Evilsizer will be going to Boise in August for specialized training on federal regulations. We will be allocating funds to Jessica Bush for her to meet with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices around the state. We will be traveling to our certified local Government Preservation offices around the state, there are 16 of those. We are partnering with the Montana Preservation Alliance on their annual historic preservation road show in White Sulphur Springs.

We are going to do as much as we can updating the national registers historic district surveys. These surveys were done in the 70's and contain a lot of inaccurate information.

Jessica Bush identified a site in Clancy on private property SPHO will probably be doing a survey on that site.

We will have our National Register Review Board meeting here tomorrow. We have 4 nominations. Next month state agencies need to submit to us their Heritage Property Reports. That's how they chronicle all they have done to preserve or recognize their heritage properties for the last two years. Interviews for the new State Historic Officer position will happen in the next week.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER – Eve Byron

Eve Byron went over her first press release. She is updating email addresses on our master list of television, radio newspaper, online websites and news organizations throughout the state.

She is working with Jennifer at HCTV to revive *This Day In History*. John Riley at MTN is interested in Women in History month, we already have information compiled here and there are some folks here he can interview as well as materials that he can use. We are linked with the story about the Marias Massacre that came out in the Flathead Beacon.

CENTRAL SERVICES Denise King

Denise passed out a list of all the libraries across the country that are receiving the magazine. She talked about Versai. It is an integrated software program designed by museum people for museums. It will manage the store inventory, point of sale system, admissions here and at the OGM. Membership, magazine subscriptions, donor lists and booking public events are also managed in Versai. It captures all this information in one spot instead of multiple places. This Friday we will download our membership list. By the first part of February we should have our membership list in Versai. Denise passed around some of the new merchandise that we are carrying in the store. Denise went through the financial report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Kent is appointing the vice president Hal Stearns to lead the Heritage Keepers Award process. We give these awards at the History Conference. This should be done by the next board meeting in April. Steve commented on the Federal Recognition of the Little Shell Band of Chippewa Cree. They have been trying for years to be federally recognized. There is going to be a ceremony Saturday January 25th in Great Falls. The federal government is working to set a small portion of land aside for them. It will be trust land.

Motion on 22-3-108 Confirmation on new hires

Bob Brown moved approval of the new hires. The motion was seconded by Ed Jasmin and passed unanimously

Motion on 22-3-107 Director's Salary

Bob Brown moved approval of the statutory pay raise. The motion was seconded by Chuck Johnson and passed unanimously

Motion on 22-3-202 State Archivist Salary

Bob Brown moved approval of the statutory pay raise. The motion was seconded by Chuck Johnson and passed unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

NEXT BOARD MEETING APRIL 16, 2020

ADJOURNMENT 2:00 P.M.