

Montana Historical Society
Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting
October 15, 2020 9:00 MST via Zoom web meeting

CALL TO ORDER

President Hal Stearns called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. MST. Jodel Fohn took roll call. Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Bob Brown, Cliff Edwards, Ed Jasmin, Chuck Johnson, Kent Kleinkopf, Steve Lozar, Thomas Minckler, Sam Phares, Sara Scott, Mike Shields, Crystal Wong Shors, and Hal Stearns.

Excused Board Members: Douglas Mac Donald, Thomas Nygard, and Jude Sheppard.

MHS Staff Present: MHS Director, Molly Kruckenberg; MHS Curator of Collections, Amanda Trum; MHS Administrator, Denise King, MHS State Historic Preservation Officer, Pete Brown; MHS Research Center Acting Program Manager, Roberta Gebhardt, MHS Museum Program Manager, Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney; and Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager, Kirby Lambert and Publications Program Manager, Diana Di Stefano.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

It was moved by Chuck Johnson and seconded by Steve Lozar to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2020 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion for Director Approval

It was moved by Kent Kleinkopf and seconded by Crystal Wong-Shors to confirm the appointment of Molly Kruckenberg as Director of the Montana Historical Society, as approved at an executive session of the Board of Trustees on April 24, 2020, and per MCA 22-3-107(3). Motion passed unanimously.

Heritage Keepers Awards

The 2020 Heritage Keepers Awards were presented to Jerry Hanley of Lewistown, Patricia Lewis of Boulder, and James Southworth of Billings.

Governor Awards for Excellence.

The 2020 Governor Awards for Excellence was awarded to the Versai software team for their work in acquiring and implementation of software for Admissions, the Museum Store, Membership and Donations. Recipients are Rennan Rieke, Lori Ereth, Jodel Fohn, Anthony Schrillo, and Rod Coslet. President Hal Stearns thanked the team.

Presidents Report – Hal Stearns

President Stearns thanked Bruce Whittenberg for doing a wonderful job as Director and welcomed Molly as the new Director of the Montana Historical Society. History is what we are all about. Hal has a copy of the 1967 publication (now the Society Star) welcoming his father to the Board of Trustees. We are gearing up for the Capitol Campaign. This is essential for all. The Executive Committee met October 13 and discussed the capitol campaign and no doubt it will be a challenge, but we will do our part to pull this off. There are so many ways to do remarkable things. Our newest exhibit “Who Speaks to You?” is

installed, thanks to Amanda and Roberta, installed by Eric and Jacob. It is a wonderful way of telling Montana's story. Included are remarkable prints and works of art.

Molly introduced Roberta Gebhardt as Acting Program Manager for the Research Center and thanked her for adding the responsibility. The quarter ended with Bruce Whittenberg retiring.

The Ground Blessing with Steve Lozar was a great ceremony on September 2. Molly thanked all that attended and Eve for overseeing the event., Construction began Sept 29, with Herd Bull and Symbol of the Pro's being moved. The Sletten Construction staff were great to work with and ensured no damage was done to the artwork. The project started with closing 6th Avenue. A video from Cushing Terrell was shared on the Montana Heritage Center. Planning for the Capitol Campaign has continued as well with the help of Curt Minor and Laura Brehm. Ginny Sullivan has been hired as the new Development Officer. There have been several gifts received or confirmed this quarter. Including an anonymous gift of one million dollars to the Montana Heritage Center, with naming rights for the Research Center, \$100,000 from the Tracey Foundation. We've been creating new videos for classroom use and as Hal mentioned, our new exhibit of *Who Speaks to You* was put up about a month or so ago and it's really fantastic. There has been a fire and tragedy at the People's Center in Pablo. Kellyn Younggren and Deb Mitchell have been assisting them.

Steve Lozar spoke about the tragedy and arson at the People's Center.

The Outreach and Interpretations transitioned the annual History Conference to the first virtual conference and it was a great success. Our Publications program launched their first digital issue about African Americans in the West. Diana would be happy to answer any questions.

Motion to Change the term of naming rights for the Montana Heritage Center Research Center from 50 years to perpetuity.

It was moved by Chuck Johnson and seconded by Thomas Minkler to approve. Motion passes.

Program Reports

Roberta Gebhardt, Acting Research Center Program Manager, reported on the receipt of a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation to digitize film *Green Paradise*, a film created by William Andrews Clark III, the grandson of William A. Clark Sr. in 1931. Work is ongoing for the Recordings at Risk Grant project, to make the Montanans At Work Oral History project recordings available online. The work of our 4th National Digital Newspaper Project is wrapping up. The reference room is open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., by appointment.

Motion to approve Deaccession List.

It was moved by Steve Lozar and seconded by Bob Brown. Motion passes. Steve Lozar commented that he is happy with Roberta Gebhardt being selected to manage the Research Center. It is his favorite part of the building and he is confident we are in good hands. Bob Brown agreed.

Pete Brown, State Historic Preservation Officer, reported that the Preservation Review Board accepted four new properties for the National Register of Historic Places: Saint Paul's Mission Church, Sage Creek

Ranger Station, Howard Lepper Memorial Hall, and the Teslo Elevator. There have been 8 projects selected for Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage grant program. SHPO is looking at a potential 9th project to fund. Eric and Pete are working with the Department of Commerce to review grant applications for the Historic Preservation Grant program funded by SB338. Kate has secured 2 grants for the African American History project: one for \$50,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and \$15,000 from the Greater Montana Foundation. Jessica Bush, the State Archeologist, recently completed a presentation on Montana's Native Peoples perspective on the Clovis Child. SHPO continues to work on data base upgrades.

Kirby Lambert, Outreach and Education Program Manager, reported that Deb Mitchell and Anthony Schirillo have been working with the Governor's Office on CARES Act Funding grant review. Katie White is working half time for SHPO. Kirby Lambert and Martha Kohl are working on the new Homeland exhibit for the Montana Heritage Center. The virtual History Conference was great and the programs will be online soon.

Crystal Wong Shores commented that Kirby and his great staff are a great resource. President Stearns said how great the Outreach and Interpretation Program is for teachers.

A short break for the Great Shakeout was conducted.

Montana Heritage Center

Russ Katherman and Jennifer James provided a project update. Sletten Construction was selected at the GC/CM. There was outreach for the Ground Blessing Ceremony, Tribal outreach, Stakeholder Groups, website, and media outreach have been completed. Design updates were presented along with a construction update. Amanda Trum from the Museum Program spoke about moving the statues to the East and West of the existing building. Russ Katherman spoke about the early work amendment for the east parking lot and 6th Avenue. There was a power outage occurred when a high voltage primary power line to MHS was hit. The power line was shallower than anticipated. Utility work will start and then the foundation in February. The budget will be reconciled, and a few timing and weather dependent issues were addressed. Tevere MacFadyen with Main Street Design spoke on working with all involved to make real progress on the Homeland. Mr. MacFadyen spoke about the vision and opportunity and stated this is far and away the more exciting project he has worked on. Main Street Design are the interpretive planners and designers. Stakeholder engagement was discussed. Involving Tribes and Nations has had a good response. Major Robinson is the Cultural liaison. He is optimistic, in the next month, to travel around Montana to work with groups. The plans for the Montana Homeland Interpretive experience were shared. The gallery experience will be a journey. The zones of the gallery were discussed. Jennifer James said she was really excited.

Cliff Edwards asked about the 1972 Constitution. The Montana Constitution is considered one of the best and asked what we are doing for previous and current constitutions. Mr. Edwards asked who was being consulted for that. Thomas Minckler asked if this was a rotating or permanent exhibit. Tevere responded that aspects will change over time. We want to showcase as many artifacts as possible and displays are easily changeable. There will be a large changing gallery that will complement the Russell

and Homeland galleries. Mr. Johnson asked if the mining section had been discussed. Tevere noted that mining was important for Butte, and Great Falls. Mining, fur trade, and now coal removal are important stories and will be included. There will be a workshop to address ideas and comments from Trustees. Mr. Lozar stated that when talking about Native Americans subjects – it's important to be accurate. It's Blackfeet, not Blackfoot. When this is misspoken credibility is lost. When advice is given it is with a good heart. Terever thanked Mr. Lozar for his advice. Russ Katherman discussed funding and the budget situation. The normal process is to coordinate the project and the budget, the estimate is currently a bit over. The accommodation tax revenues are current projected to be 6 million below estimates. They are working to keep the same scope. All comments are welcome. President Stearns thanked the design team for their work.

Curt Minor and Laura Brehm presented the Positioning Study. The final report states that the Building Campaign is the primary focus. The second focus is Philanthropy and the third is preparing for future fundraising. All Montanans have the opportunity to contribute to this campaign. Lastly, in addition to the fund-raising staff as recommended, MHS should have fundraising council with deep experience and project management responsibilities to guide what is a complex and significant undertaking. The Positioning Study was reviewed. The short timeline to accomplish this was discussed. Mr. Klienkopf stated that the full Board has contributed so far, some significantly. Molly thanked Curt and Laura. A motion to accept the Positioning Study and finding and proceed with the Capitol Campaign was moved by Mike Shields and seconded by Steve Lozar. Motion passed.

Program Reports

Diana Di Stefano, Publications Program Manager, reported that she is continually impressed with her staff. The autumn magazine is out with a gorgeous cover and great articles. Winter and Spring issues are coming along. She hopes you had a chance to look at the online issue on African Americans in Montana and the West. She encouraged any feed-back. The Emerging Scholars competition has been launched. The 101 Objects book is really making progress and hoping to go to the printers soon. Michael Johnson's book about Rose Gordon is also moving along. Rodger Henderson is writing a book that redefines the Baker Massacre. They are holding steady for members and subscribers. President Stearns thanked Diana for her wonderful work.

Jennifer Bottomly O'looney, Museum Program Manager, reported that Portrait Exhibit is installed and was a great team effort. They are working on moving the collections and working on the matrix for Main Street Design. The annual loan request was presented. It was moved by Kent Klienkopf and seconded by Bob Brown. Motion passes.

Denise King, Administrator, shared the financial schedules for fiscal year 2020, Covid and bed tax were discussed. Mr. Klienkopf asked if there were any legislative concerns with the trust accounts. Denise said that most have specific uses. Mr. Shields asked what the current level of bed tax was. Denise said the bed tax was down 33% - 60%. The visitation to Glacier National Park was down 75% and Yellowstone National Park was up 100%. The 2021 session executive planning process (EPP) included career ladder to help increase staff wages.

Motion to remove the motion made at the July Board of Trustees meeting to take a tour of MHS program at each Board meeting due to Covid-19 restrictions.

It was moved by Chuck Johnson and seconded by Kent Kleinkopf to remove the motion from the July meeting for the Board of Trustees to tour MHS programs at each meeting. Motion passes.

President Stearns asked for public comment.

Mr. Jasmin asked where we are at in hiring a Development Officer. Molly responded that Ginny Sullivan will start November 16.

Ed Jasmin congratulated on the \$1.7 million in gifts and asked if that was included in the \$5.1 million or in addition to. Molly Kruckenberg clarified that the \$1.7 million was included in the \$5.1 million.

Steve Lozar asked that we remember Jim Murray, that he be in our hearts and heads, and spoke about Jim.

Kent Kleinkopf seconded Mr. Lozar's comments in spades.

Chuck Johnson stated that Jim Murray was also a good friend. He wanted an exhibit on the Montana's labor movement.

Any comments on the Montana Heritage Center should go to Molly Kruckenberg or Hal Stearns.

President Stearns thanked Molly and Denise for working with him. Molly will be meeting with Cliff Edwards and Thomas Minckler in the coming weeks. The next meeting is January 21 and most likely via Zoom. President Stearns thanked Rennan and Jodel for their help as well.

It was moved by Ed Jasmin and seconded by Chuck Johnson that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed.