

**Montana Historical Society
Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting
October 21, 2021, 11:00 MST
Montana State Capitol Building, Room 317**

CALL TO ORDER

President Hal Stearns called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Jodel Fohn took roll call.

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Norma Ashby Smith, Carol Donaldson, Jestin Dupree, Tim Fox, Ed Jasmin, Kent Kleinkopf, Lorna Kuney, Steve Lozar, Thomas Minckler, Ken Robison, Jay Russell, Jude Sheppard. and Hal Stearns.

Excused Board Members: Douglas MacDonald and Bill Jones.

MHS Staff Present: Molly Kruckenberg, Director; Denise King, Administrator; Eve Byron, Public Information Officer; Ginny Sullivan, Development Officer; Jodel Fohn, Membership Services; Roberta Gebhardt, Research Center Program Manager; Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney, Museum Program Manager; Kirby Lambert, Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager; Diana Di Stefano, Publications Program Manager; and Pete Brown, State Historic Preservation Officer.

Review of Minutes

Ed Jasmin moved to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2021, meeting. Norma Ashby Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report – Hal Stearns

President Stearns thanked Denise King for her amazing job on the Legislative Audit. There were no recommendations. Denise thanked Candi Mullenbach, Lori Ereth, Monica Latham, Carol Loomis and Rennan Reike for their work. President Stearns presented the Standing Committees assignments of the Board of Trustees and the assignments were discussed.

Director's Report – Molly Kruckenberg

Molly thanked everyone for adjusting to the meeting time change to avoid the campus-wide earthquake drill.

New Employee Introductions – New employees Jacob Franklin, Museum Preparator, and Hannah Soukup, Government Records Archivist; and temporary employee, Heather Doyle, Collections Assistant were introduced.

Molly shared the Core Statistics. A brief construction update was given. The MHS Strategic Plan, including a new mission statement, vision statement, value statements, and overarching goals were presented.

Ed Jasmin moved to approve the Strategic Plan. Jude Sheppard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Molly spoke about membership, core statistics, and development progress; outreach at the CMR Auction, the National Conference of State Legislatures, Montana Heritage Commission, Conrad Museum, USS Montana Committee, a visit with the Irish Ambassador to the United States, the book launch for *A History of Montana in 101 Objects*, and the annual History Conference held in Butte in September.

Ginny Sullivan, Development Officer, spoke about creating a culture of philanthropy. The results of the spring appeal effort were shared and an update on the fall appeal process and match campaign was given. The fall appeal theme is Packing up the Museum.

Eve Byron, Public Information Officer, shared highlights from her report, including news of the Murdock Foundation Grant. Events she has attended, promoted, and shared on social media were reported. Eve also shared and discussed social media statistics.

Program Managers Reports

Kirby Lambert, Outreach and Information Program Manager, spoke about the Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, recognizing the 10th year of the program with the publication of a yearbook. Centennial Farms and Ranches are those that have been in the same family for 100 years or more. Kirby thanked Christine Brown and Diane Hall for content and design of the book. He also spoke about the return of Thursday programs and the success of the History Conference.

Roberta Gebhardt, Research Center Program Manager, shared highlights from her report. Ari Laskin from Carroll College did research for a film class, a visit from the Irish Ambassador to the United States, and PBS' "Finding Your Roots" television program filmed in the Research Center. Roberta shared the Deaccession list, the *Butte Daily Post* Deaccession, and renewing a loan of the Negro Women's Clubs cookbook to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American history.

Ed Jasmin moved to approve the Deaccession List. Steve Lozar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Jasmin moved to approve the *Butte Daily Post* Deaccession List Steve Lozar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jude Shepherd moved to approve the loan renewal for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American history. Ed Jasmin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Bottomly – O'looney, Museum Program Manager, shared an update on the Museum inventory and packing project. The Museum staff is working on the new Montana Homeland Gallery, Russell Gallery, and the Changing Galleries. The Museum exhibit staff have completed an artifact mount-making workshop. This team is responsible for all the mounts in the new exhibits.

Diane Di Stefano, Publications Manager, shared that the Autumn magazine was made available just prior to the History Conference. The winter magazine production continues with a focus on women in Montana. Two contributing authors for the magazine were honored at the Western Heritage Awards in Oklahoma City. The Board of Editors selected the Paladin Award for the best article and the winner was Carrie Clement for her article on the reintroduction of horses on the Crow Reservation. Diana gave an update on the press books, *A History of Montana in 101 Objects*, the Rose Gordon book, and the member and subscriber numbers.

Pete Brown, State Historic Preservation Officer, shared the updates on SHPO's 5-year plan, which will be complete in November 2021. Pete shared highlights from his report including the Revitalizing Montana's Rural History grant program, and Montana's African American Heritage Resource project. Pete shared the note cards that have been made from the past poster images, and work on the upcoming infrastructure bill.

Denise C. King, Administrator for Central Services Division, spoke about the financial reports. She was researching information and compared to fiscal year 1909-1910, when "York" by CM Russell was donated and noted we are currently in a better financial position. Denise reviewed the fiscal schedules. She asked that everyone consider shopping in the MHS Store and use your 15%-member discount.

Ed Jasmin moved to approve the hiring of Hannah Soukup, Government Records Specialist. Jude Shepherd seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Russ Katherman, Architecture and Engineering Division, shared an update on the Montana Heritage Center. outreach in the last quarter was conducted with agencies, Tribal Stakeholders and other stakeholder groups, website updates, the City of Helena, Montana State Library Commission, and the surrounding neighborhood. Construction is moving along with work from eight different disciplines working concurrently. User groups are coordinating and review the value engineering exercise to address market forces. The budget and cost analysis were discussed.

Molly spoke about the need for increased private contributions in addition to the value engineering process that will help reduce costs in order to complete the Montana Heritage Center.

Ed Jasmin moved to increase the private funding commitment from MHS for the Montana Heritage Center from \$10 Million to \$15 Million due to increased construction costs. Norma Ashby Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business


Norma Ashby Smith shared some of her donations to the Research Center.

Tim Fox shared greetings from Cliff Edwards and spoke about Chief Earl Old Person passing. A moment of silence was held. Steve Lozar sang an honor song for Chief Earl Old Person.

Public Comment

None

Ed Jasmin moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Lozar seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.



Hal Stearns, President