

Montana Historical Society
Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting
October 20, 2022, 9:00 MST
Montana State Capitol Building, Room 152

CALL TO ORDER

President Jude Sheppard called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Jodel Fohn took roll.

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Norma Ashby Smith, Carol Donaldson, Tim Fox, Ed Jasmin, Bill Jones, Lorna Kuney, Douglas MacDonald, Ken Robison, Jay Russell, Jude Sheppard, and Candi Zion.

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees Members Excused: Thomas Minckler.

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

Review of Minutes

Bill Jones moved to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2022, meeting. Ed Jasmin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report:

President Sheppard spoke about touring the new Montana Heritage Center yesterday. President Sheppard thanked everyone for coming.

Director's Report:

Molly asked Program Managers to introduce their new employees.

New Employee Introductions – Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney introduced MaryAnn George, who has been hired for the Museum Administrative Assistant. MaryAnn was not able to attend today's meeting. Denise King introduced Emily McKeever, who has been hired as the new Administrator. Emily spoke about her experience and background. Denise King then introduced Jennifer Simmons, who has been hired as the new Financial Executive. Jennifer spoke about her professional background.

Molly reported visitation, reference, and outreach statistics. Member, subscriber, social media statistics, and accessioned items were reviewed. Molly discussed the highly successful Montana History Conference in Red Lodge at the end of September. The conference had a great turnout, Doug MacDonald presented at one of the programs. Christine Brown did an amazing job organizing the conference. Molly thanked Christine

and all MTHS staff for their work. The 2022 MTHS Governors Award was presented to Laura Evilsizer, a compliance officer at SHPO, for her work with review of more than 500 federally assisted drought relief projects that benefited Montana Agricultural producers. As Jude shared, there was a tour of the new MT Heritage Center yesterday and for those Trustees that didn't go and would like to, there will be another tour today after the meeting.

Molly reported that Cinnebar has been selected as our exhibit fabricator for the Homeland Gallery. Incorporating our team and theirs has already begun. In September, Dennis and Phyllis Washington and their guest Adam Del Dio, who is Vice President of Original Documentary Programming for Netflix, and Angus Wall, an award-winning film editor and owner of the production company Rock, Paper, Scissors, visited the Montana Heritage Center. With the assistance of Marty Byrnes, they were given a tour of the job site and discussed potential enhancements to multi-media exhibits. Molly briefly explained the interpretive and media design on which the Museum program has spent numerous hours. MTHS has continued to plan for high-density storage for the Library & Archives.

Phasing plans have continued for the renovation to the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building, which will begin in the spring. Donor recognition opportunities have continued, including meeting with Lorna and her family to discuss ideas for recognition of Betty Babcock.

Collections and artifact selection with our tribal representatives continues. This week, representatives from the Chippewa Cree have been reviewing the collection related to their tribe. The Homeland Exhibit and NENUK closed Sept. 30. The CM Russell and Lobby galleries remain open, along with the Original Governor's Mansion, and Museum Store. Public programs will continue in the lobby. The Research Center will close by Jan. 1, 2023, to prepare for renovations, but staff will be available to answer reference questions.

Director's Office Reports:

Eve Byron reported that news releases about public programs and closures went out this week. Still to come are news releases on the History Teacher of the Year, Big Medicine, Laura Evilsizer's 2022 Governor's Award for Outstanding Service, and some stories publicizing the Original Governor's Mansion. MTHS has advertised in Montana Cultural Treasures, and other magazines. There have been numerous mentions in newspapers, TV spots and radio. We have followers from around the world on social media.

Ginny Sullivan continues to meet with potential donors, including some in Missoula last night. There have been many hard hat tours with Denise. She and Eve will attend the Montana Lodging & Hospitality conference in Billings at the end of the month. Ginny asked that if anyone meets with a potential donor, to please invite herself or Molly to attend. Ginny shared Capitol Campaign materials and their content, then talked about fundraising results and goals, including those for elements that were "value engineered" out of the project and may be resurrected, as well as set up long-term donations.

Ed Jasmin asked about the Mobile Campaign and receiving commitments by Jan. 31, 2023.

Program Reports:

Roberta Gebhardt, Library & Archives Program Manager, explained the new Library & Archives fees and free 30-minute searches have been implemented. Work on the NDNP continues, and the first digital batch of files have been accepted at the Smithsonian. Dan Karalus has been to Washington D.C. for a conference recently. Photo Archives has been staying busy with orders before the end of the year.

Ed Jasmin moved to approve the Deaccession List. Bill Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Jasmin moved to approve the Periodical Deaccession List. Ken Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney, Museum Program Manager, reported on the ongoing interpretation for the new the new Homeland Exhibit. Packing and inventory continues. Hartman Conservation examined CM Russell's Lewis and Clark Meeting the Indians at Ross' Hole and DeCamp paintings in the Old Law Library. Other CM Russell art in our collection were examined. We are waiting on a report and will proceed from there. Preparation for the new Russell Gallery is under way.

Ed Jasmin moved to approve the MTHS Museum Program art loan for the Governor's Budget Office. Tim Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting took a temporary hiatus for the Great Montana Shake Out.

Pete Brown, State Historic Perseveration Officer, reported that he is honored to be recognized for SHPO's prompt responses to compliance projects. Melissa Munson's position has been reclassified. The National Park Service contract should be done in November for the five-year State Historic Preservation Plan. The annual report was shared, including a graph of the increased compliance work. Jessica Bush will be on maternity leave. Revitalizing Montana's Rural Grant has six completed properties.

Ken Robison commented on the *Hidden Stories* premier and Kate Hampton did an outstanding job with the documentary.

Russ Katherman from the State of Montana, Architectural and Engineering Office gave a report on the Montana Heritage Center. Existing structures on the north end of the project were removed to make way for the new parking lot, which will increase vehicle capacity by 90-plus spaces, including larger spaces for RV's and buses. Updates to both the new and existing roofs are in the works. The black water proofing on the building has been completed; next, the building tiles will be installed. The building will be enclosed soon.

Ed Jasmin asked about restroom locations. Norma Ashby Smith asked about underground parking. Russ explained the underground parking was never part of the project.

Russ spoke about the budget and gave kudos to Molly and her team for the great work on fundraising. The compact storage and new roof are included, and the budget is now at \$84 million.

Norma Ashby Smith asked about the rising cost. Russ discussed labor and supply shortages and mentioned the state contribution has not been increased.

Martha Kohl, Outreach and Information Program Manager, reported that the Montana History Conference was Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 in Red Lodge, and thanked Christine Brown and her staff for all of their help. Work on the 2024 History Conference has begun. There have been 3,500 fourth grade books sent to Montana schools. Martha explained how the Teacher Leaders in Montana History program are mentors. Ron Buck, a fifth-grade teacher from Shelby was introduced and spoke about how the program has helped him.

Diana Di Stefano, Publications Manager, reported the autumn magazine is available, and that *Montana's Visionary Mayor; Willard E. Fraser* by Lou Mandler has been selling well. The High Plains book awards selected *A History of Montana in 101 Objects* for Best Non-Fiction award. It also took top prize for the Big Sky Category. She spoke about how the Emerging Scholar Contest is growing. Diana went to San Antonio for the Western History Conference and met with the editorial board for the magazine's annual meeting. Associated Editor Laura Ferguson has resigned and her position will be replaced. Thomas Minckler's book *Montana's Paper Trail*, a collection of his artwork, is in the works.

Denise King, Administrator for Central Services Division, reported on the financials for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2022 and the first quarter of fiscal year 2023. Denise shared some of the new merchandise from the Museum Store and encouraged Trustees to shop in the store.

Denise asked Trustees to approve the hiring of MaryAnn George, Museum Administrative Assistant; Jennifer Simmons, Financial Executive; Emily McKeever, Administrator.

Bill Jones moved to approve the new hires. Ken Robison seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Molly thanked Denise for her years of service to MTHS, knowledge and expertise.

Unfinished Business

Molly introduced Shane Morigeau from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Shane asked Steven Small Salmon for a prayer. Shirley Tryhan, Rita Adams, Terry Pitts, Martin Charlo, Vernon Finley, Rick Ennis and other members of the CSKT spoke about the importance of taking of Big Medicine to his homeland, and what he means to the Tribes. Big Medicine was born in 1933 and symbolized new empowerment for the people, and the negative effects of his taking. The National Bison Range is being managed by the CSKT and they are creating an environmentally controlled space for him in what will be a new

cultural center near there. He will be available for the public to view so they can learn his story. While the Tribe was not able to take care of him when he died, they are thankful for the care he has received. Photos of Big Medicine were shared because even though he is a mount today, many remember him as a living being.

The meeting broke for lunch at noon.

When the meeting reconvened, Molly commented on the request to repatriate Big Medicine.

Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney said the Museum Program recommends the repatriation of Big Medicine.

Bill Jones expressed his appreciation for the passion for Big Medicine and thanked the Tribe for making the trip.

Tim Fox moved to approve the repatriation of Big Medicine. Ken Robison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ken Robison asked if a holographic image of Big Medicine could be taken before he leaves MTHS.

Candi Zion asked if another white buffalo could be obtained.

The Chairman of the CSKT said he was deeply appreciative of the care Big Medicine has received and how the Tribe will care for him in perpetuity.

New Business

Denise spoke about the wage increase of 55 cents per hour at the end of the year for all employees. Two had to be approved by the board. Bill Jones moved to approve the 55-cents per hour raise for the State Archivist per MCA 22-3-202. Norma Ashby Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Jay Russell moved to approve the 55-cent per hour raise for the Director per MCA 22-3-107. Norma Ashby Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Naming approvals for the Board of Trustees were presented. Naming approvals are for the Central Commons, Charles M. Russell Gallery, Habitats Trail, Classrooms, Outdoor Terrace, and the Montana Habitats Trail Sensory Experiences.

Bill Jones moved to approve naming approvals. Norma Ashby Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Comment

No members of the public commented.

Norma Ashby Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Lorna Kuney seconded the motion.
Motion passed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jude Sheppard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jude Sheppard, President