

Montana Historical Society
Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting
January 18, 2024, 9 A.M. MDT
Montana State Capitol Room 455

CALL TO ORDER:

Tim Fox called the meeting to order at 9:03am. Jenni Carr took roll.

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Tim Fox, Mary Helland, Bill Jones

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members attending virtually: Norma Ashby Smith, Carol Donaldson, Bill Whitsitt, Lorna Kuney, Steve Lozar, Ken Robison, Candi Zion

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members excused: Jay Russell, Jude Sheppard

MTHS Staff present: Molly Kruckenberg, Director; Emily McKeever, Administrator; Jenni Carr; Administrative Assistant/Membership Coordinator; Ginny Sullivan, Development Officer; Eve Byron, Public Information Officer; Laura Marsh, Outreach and Education; Roberta Gebhardt, Library and Archives Program Manager; Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney, Museum Program Manager; Diana Di Stefano, Publications Program Manager; Pete Brown, State Historic Preservation Program Manager

In Steve Lozar's absence, Tim offered a blessing.

Review of Minutes:

Motion: Bill Jones moved to approve the October 19, 2023, minutes. Ken Robison seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

(Vice) President's Report – Tim Fox

Tim thanked staff and trustees for attending in person and virtually with the poor weather complicating things. He had nothing else to report.

Director's Report – Molly Kruckenberg

Molly thanked everyone who was able to make it to the meeting in person and thanked the virtual attendees.

MTHS Staff Update: Molly welcomed SHPO's new staff, Steffany Wood, GIS Specialist. Steffany introduced herself to the board. Martha presented Devon Malizia as the Program Specialist for the Montana 250 Commission. Devon shared her background.

Statistics: Molly presented the board with the quarter's statistics regarding members, subscribers, social media, visitors.

Legislative Update: Education Interim Budget Committee had an interim study on administrative attachment to the Department of Administration, and this will be discussed in April of 2024.

MT250 Commission: The commission began this quarter. It met the first time on December 5 for introductions, then the commission met on January 11. Members elected the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Montana Heritage Center Update: Construction is ongoing with the exterior finishing up, as well as the interior finishes happening in the addition.

- Media Enhancements: Completed the schematic design process.
- The content design firm, Mainstreet Design, has resigned from the project. Cinnabar (exhibit fabrication firm), has taken over the design aspect and will design and fabricate the exhibits moving forward. While it was a disruption, the project is moving forward seamlessly.
- Staff are continuing to work with Tribal Stakeholders to be certain their voice is heard throughout the project.
- Molly shared photos of the project with the trustees.
- Budget and Cost Analysis: Molly reviewed the budget and cost analysis with the trustees. The project is currently staying on budget.

Membership Report – Ginny Sullivan

Ginny presented the membership and subscription numbers. Both departments have dropped since last quarter. Ginny explained to the trustees that the drop in numbers is partially due to integrating subscribers into the membership database. This integration is intended to streamline communications and customer service with both our subscribers and members. Staff is working to create efficiencies and simplify communications by presenting more digital communications. There were some hiccups with the integration, as renewals were delayed. Those renewals are now being caught up so numbers will be going up in the next quarter.

Due to a scheduling mistake, several pieces of MTHS mail went out simultaneously, which affected the amount of mail we got returned.

Tim acknowledged that Steve Lozar and Candi Zion have joined remotely.

Development Report – Ginny Sullivan

Capital Campaign: The campaign is winding down as MTHS seeks gifts at lower levels. There have been about 1,200 individual donors. MTHS has raised \$57 million. All donors are being listed on the website – large and small. Pledge payments are continuing to come in. About 330 acres of land were donated by Thomas Nygard and staff are working on getting the land appraised and ready for sale. The media enhancement campaign has concluded.

People and Lands of Montana Art Installation: Ginny presented the board with the newest fundraising opportunity to raise the final \$1 million for the project. The original design of the mobile

didn't work as well as staff had hoped, so it has undergone a redesign. There will be four large-scale images hanging in the central commons that highlight the beauty of Montana. The "people" portion of the installation will highlight people past and present who have made an impact on Montana. This portion of the installation will be at eye level for visitors to experience. Fifty-four people have already signed up for the mobile fundraiser.

Ginny played the fundraising appeal video for the mobile.

The development team completed a Fall appeal and raised \$61,440. This appeal excluded the highest donors as staff are targeting them for the mobile appeal.

Finally, Ginny reported that the History and Civics Education Endowment has raised a little over \$2.4 million in the three months it's been available.

Bill Whitsitt commented that the change in the mobile design is stunning and even better than the former design. He asked if there were cost implications to the new design. Ginny responded that the budget implications were covered by the media enhancement fundraising.

Public Relations Report – Eve Byron

Eve reported that it was a busy quarter for public relations. Eve and Ginny have met with Sovrn, the marketing company, several times this quarter to work on marketing. Sovrn is working on a brand strategy to distinguish MTHS's markets. Eve found a photographer for the mobile, Kevin League, and now Cinnabar is working directly with him to create an image worthy of the space. Eve has been meeting with the Tourism folks and they are analyzing Helena's needs in supporting the influx of people the Montana Heritage Center will bring when it opens. Eve reported on all the happenings in the public relations department and described the positive outreach MTHS has been involved with. Eve updated the trustees on the increase in social media followers and engagements.

Ken Robison asked if there was more public interest in the new Heritage Center. Eve answered "absolutely." Eve gave a tour yesterday and the excitement is palpable.

Bill Whitsitt thanked Eve for her work, and reminded everyone that there is interest in the Heritage Center and the work of the Historical Society. Those who do broadcast interviews aren't fully aware of what the Society does. Bill asks that anyone who may have interviews reach out to Eve first so that she can assist in steering the conversation toward the historical society.

Candi also commented on the increase in followers.

Program Reports:

Library & Archives – Roberta Gebhardt

Roberta gave an update on the Library and Archives program. She expressed gratitude toward the Hammersley foundation for funding the intern, Emma, who was able to assist in cataloging several items. Staff are working on cataloging and organizing throughout the closure.

Collection Management Policy Update: Roberta's team reviewed the collection management policy as it had not been updated since 2018. Instead of focusing on the three areas of L&A (Library, archives, photo archives), they have opted to look at the policy as a whole.

Motion: Steve Lozar moved to approve the collection Management Policy Update. Mary Helland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Whitsitt commented that the guidance to keep the collections "relevant and useful" is extremely important and he finds the draft excellent.

January 2024 Deaccession: Roberta asked for approval on the January deaccession.

Motion: Bill Jones moved to approve the January 2024 deaccession. Carol Donaldson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Deaccession and Transfer of MC 247 Butte Tombstone company records: The best place for this collection is the Butte Silverbow archives.

Motion: Ken Robison moved to approve the deaccession and transfer of MC247 Butte Tombstone company records to the Butte-Silverbow Archives. Lorna Kuney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim asked if the Mansfield Library was going to de-access theirs as well. Roberta responded that they were.

Steve commented that Butte is his favorite town in the whole world, and he's pleased with the development of the archives to bring Butte back to Butte.

BREAK: Tim called for a break at 10:06 a.m., to reconvene at 10:20. He called the meeting back to order at 10:21 a.m.

Centralized Services Division – Emily McKeever

Administrative update: With the additional staffing of guards under Jerry McGee, there is a security presence at both 225 N. Roberts and 910 Helena Ave. The security guards are assisting Sletten with the ongoing deconstruction of some storage units. The guards have been going above and beyond to assist in any area they're needed.

HR: Carol Loomis and Emily have been hard at work posting positions and hiring new staff. A handful of positions have been vacated, and rehired.

IT: Rennan Reike has been busy in the IT department keeping staff up and running and working to keep the IT side of things updated. He worked on an Adobe licensing issue and mitigated a large financial cost.

Museum Store: The store has seen decreased foot traffic; however, Dianna Berry has kept the store running smoothly. Profitability is up even while sales are down due to the decreased foot traffic. MTHS has successfully hired an Assistant Store Manager.

Financials: Tami Gunlock has been working on the budget to make sure the financial side of things stay on track. She has provided Budget to Actual Reports for program managers. Emily, Monica, and Tami have all been very busy managing money. Emily provided the trustees with the financial Report for the end of 2023.

Tim asked if there is any concern about not spending all the money that has been appropriated to the Montana Historical Society. Molly answered that there is not any concern with 2023, as we will be spending it for FY2024.

Emily presented the Quarterly Report for FY2024 for all departments.

Emily announced that the Museum store will need to vacate their place at 225 N. Roberts earlier than anticipated. Emily and Eve have been looking at other locations and possibly found a place downtown that could present an opportunity for more foot traffic and build enthusiasm for the grand opening in 2025.

Bill Whitsitt asked if MTHS was to do a half-year Budget-to-Actual, how would we be doing on the spending? Emily presented her next document, which illustrates the end-year six-month update.

Molly added that some of the funds are allowed to roll over to other fiscal years and don't need to be spent – one of these areas is sites and signs, which currently shows a large budget.

New Employee Hires:

Motion: Candi Zion moved to approve the hiring of new employees per MCA22-3-108. Norma Ashby seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Museum Program – Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney

The museum has been a busy place regardless of the closure. Kendra and Rowena received a Governor's Award for the packing of artifacts. It has been a challenge to plan and schedule the moving pieces of the museum as staff begin thinking about the opening of the MHC in 2025.

Candi commended MTHS staff for the packing of Montana's treasures.

Jennifer requested approval from the board to loan artwork to the Governor's Budget Director's office.

Approval of Loan:

Motion: Candi Zion moved to approve the loan to the Governor's Budget Director. Norma Ashby Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim summarized the loan request for the trustees attending virtually.

Outreach & Interpretation – Martha Kohl

Martha gave an overview of the Montana 250 Commission and their goals and responsibilities.

Bill Jones asked if the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution are involved at all in the commission. Martha confirmed one of the members is part of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution. The commission is working with several entities to be inclusive.

Steve Lozar expressed confidence in Mike Jetty's involvement with the commission.

Martha highlighted Ken Robison and Norma Ashby Smith's involvement of the History Conference to be hosted in Great Falls next year. There are a lot of exciting items on the agenda.

Hands on History Footlocker Program: This program is ongoing and sends out large trunks of historical items for teachers to use in the classroom. This program has always been free, other than shipping to the next venue. However, shipping costs have increased exponentially so MTHS will now charge just a flat fee of \$25 and O&I will pick up the additional cost.

Norma Ashby Smith thanked Martha for promoting the conference in Great Falls.

Tim Fox remarked that he is looking forward to the Fieldtrip Grant Program (endowment) and is wondering what kind of pre-planning is happening in the O&I department in preparation for that. Martha answered that new positions are being added to O&I to help accommodate the influx of students. It will be a very exciting time, but also quite challenging. Tim asked if board members or others could be trained to volunteer to give tours. Martha stated, "absolutely!" He also asked if volunteers would help with unpacking. Martha responded yes, and if you have interest in volunteering you can contact Katie White, the MTHS volunteer coordinator.

Publications – Diana Di Stefano

Diana presented the trustees with the newest issue of the magazine, the newest book – Catastrophe at Custer Creek – and the calendar that went out last quarter.

Diana highlighted what is happening in the publications department. She described the Emerging Scholar Contest, which started as a \$300 prize, and has been increased to \$1000 with an invitation to speak at the history conference. The contest wrapped up a few weeks ago with 17 submissions (up from six last year), so it's exciting to see the program growing and expanding with nationwide contestants. Publications has also contracted with Project Muse to provide digital copies of the magazine. This can potentially increase subscribers into the thousands. This is an essential move for the magazine. The first step was introducing it to institutions, and the second step will be allowing unlimited access to subscribers and members. This will transform our accessibility to current readers while also expanding to new readers.

Catastrophe at Custer Creek was released in December. Diana introduced a book-in-progress by former trustee, Doug MacDonald.

Diana has started a conversation with State Print and Mail about moving to a print-on-demand format for printing publications.

Staff Changes: Diane Hall, graphic designer, retired at the end of 2023. Diana has hired a freelancer while she waits to post the position. She is continuing to partner with graduate students to network and do copy-editing.

Ken Robison thanked Diana for the report. He applauded her effort in making the magazine available digitally. He asked if he could subscribe outside of institutions. She responded that yes, but we're still working on how to provide the best access. He's looking forward to the book lineup. He noted the printing on demand is a great advantage that he's excited about.

Tim thanked Diana and mentioned that the magazine is a treasure that he enjoys reading.

SHPO – Pete Brown

Pete announced the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church in Great Falls was awarded a large grant.

Ken Robison commended Kate Hampton on her efforts and offered context on the church.

The Compliance Officer position has been filled by Dylan Hamons who is set to start the first part of June. He has ample experience and a great personality to complement the SHPO staff. In the meantime, the rest of the staff is pitching in and covering for that position.

Candi asked what the picture was on the slideshow. Pete answered that it's a photo from the Youth Archaeological Field Monitoring program. This photo was on the cover of the annual report as it is one of their greatest achievements of 2023.

The annual report is on the website, and the link will be provided to the trustees by Jenni Carr.

Pete announced more places that have been added to the historic registry.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Heritage Keeper Awards: Molly updated the trustees on the Heritage Keepers Award. The nominations are due on or before April 1, 2024. Staff are creating an online form that includes all the criteria for the applications. Jenni Carr will collect all applications before submitting them to trustees. In addition, Jenni and Molly are working on a new way to score the applications for simplification and consistency. Norma is looking forward to the changes.

Elections: Elections for officers for the BOT will happen at the April meeting. Jude will establish a nomination committee. The new officers will take over at the July meeting. The elections are annual; however, officers traditionally have stayed in their positions for two years before moving on. Also, they traditionally move from secretary to vice president, and vice president to president to keep knowledge in the executive committee. This is tradition, not outlined in the bylaws.

NEW BUSINESS

Report on Theft of Library & Archives materials: In November of 2022, a member of the public contacted the Montana Historical Society as he had purchased items from eBay that he recognized from the MTHS collection. They were, in fact, part of the MTHS collection. Jerry McGee proceeded to contact the police, who got the FBI involved. After a thorough investigation, on Nov. 29, 2023, charges were filed against Brian D'Ambrosio, who is the suspect in this case. This is the first announcement of the theft as it was an ongoing investigation and staff didn't want to hinder the investigation by announcing anything publicly. Mr. D'Ambrosio had his first court appearance and pleaded not guilty to all charges. There have been a couple of requests for comment, which are directed toward Eve Byron. MTHS is cooperating with law enforcement.

Tim stated that if he goes to trial, he is happy to work with staff to discuss do's and don'ts of testimony in the court room.

Steve thanked Tim and acknowledged it's nice to have legal counsel in situations like this.

Ken Robison asked if there was any evidence Mr. D'Ambrosio was using others in the sales process, and if there was evidence of any sales to other parties that we have not recovered. Tim responded that the FBI contacted eBay and they are tracking the sales.

The law is that stolen items, purchased by an individual, must be returned to the prior owner. The purchaser is also a victim. If found guilty, there will likely be a restitution order.

Roberta acknowledged that there were items beyond what the good citizen brought in, and the FBI purchased items that are currently in their possession.

Candi asked how Mr. D'Ambrosio obtained the items – whether he signed into the research center himself, or someone else retrieved the items for him. Roberta answered that he was well known in the research center, and had signed in. Molly confirmed that there was record of his presence in the research center that coincided with the days the items went missing.

Roberta made the trustees aware that security measures are being taken to prevent this from happening again.

Ken thanked staff for the insight into the theft. Candi expressed gratitude that he was caught.

Mary asked if there was a way to check inventory to see what could be missing. Roberta answered, "yes and no." There is a good idea of what collections he was researching, but as MTHS is closed and things are packed up it's difficult to know exactly. As staff unpacks, the collections will be reviewed thoroughly. Bill Jones added that it is hard to know.

Tim said that the concerned citizen should receive something from the board thanking him for his honesty and response.

Break for Lunch

Tim called for a lunch break at 12:06 p.m. to reconvene at 12:30 p.m.

Tim called the meeting back to order at 12:34 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Molly gave an Administrative Rules Update. MTHS has a plan to revise three of the organizational rules and appeal the rest. To be revised: organizational rule, general guidelines, museum and galleries loans. 10.1212.901-918 addresses SHPO compliance rules and will not be considered at this time. These updates will be brought to the board as they get revised.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued)

Update on Thomas Minckler Collection: Tim began the discussion on the Thomas Minckler collection by reiterating that the reason MTHS couldn't move on purchasing the collection earlier was due to the conflict of interest of Tom being on the board.

Molly reviewed that since the October 19 meeting, Ginny and Molly met with Gov. Gianforte to discuss the collection. The Governor was not interested in the collection and would not aid in fundraising for it, nor would he be for government appropriation. Molly has been in communication with the collection owner about his wishes and working on getting the appraisal.

The appraisal was received last week, which has since been reviewed by Molly in detail. There are a few less than 10,000 items, with a total estimated value of \$6.2 million. There are a handful of discrepancies between the appraisal and the inventory list, which need to be addressed.

Molly had a conversation with Tom Minckler last week. His sale price is \$5.2 million paid over 24 months. He has requested payment every six months at increments he provided. If payments are made, ownership would be transferred at the time of payment so MTHS would not be taking on debt. He also requested that a case be installed outside the Library & Archives that he would help curate with MTHS staff, and a plaque would be added honoring himself. He has also removed the maps of Great Falls from the potential sale.

Molly reiterated that the Minckler Collection is astounding. The MTHS does have a lot of materials on some of the same topics, but the collection would add depth, not so much breadth.

Roberta added that Library & Archives staff, as well as Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney from the museum, reviewed items using his book "Montana: A Paper Trail." After thorough review, they recommend: maybe acquiring 32 items; turning down 191 items; and definitely acquiring 126 items. The items of interest could not be made a "Thomas Minckler Collection" as the items would be added to collections MTHS already has. A lot of items would add value, but staff have no interest in several.

Molly and Ginny have spent time meeting with professional fundraisers to review the process and concerns regarding the Minckler Collection. The current development staff (1.5 FTE) could not take on fundraising for this project alone. The cost to aid staff would be roughly \$125,000 as quoted by the professional consultants. Ginny remarked that the collection is very complex. To find donors, they will need a passion for the collection, and be able to extend their current donation. Ginny

evaluated the high-end donors, and as they're mostly new to donating to MTHS, it complicates things. Ginny has found 12-14 donors who may have an interest but at much less price points than they had for the MHC campaign. That includes both foundations and corporate supporters. A lot of places don't support acquisition campaigns. Ginny is concerned about donor fatigue as an issue. The consultants have advised the development office to cultivate current donors and wait before asking for anything more. The professionals expressed concern with the timeline, saying they don't believe it's achievable. Ginny believes the only way would be to hire an outside contractor and seek out donors who would have an interest in acquisitions.

The professional consultants have suggested an Acquisition Endowment as an alternative to fundraising for specific acquisitions.

The Montana Historical Society's primary goal is to complete the Montana Heritage Center. That includes completing the Capital Campaign, finalizing exhibit design, oversight of construction, planning, marketing, packing, moving, and unpacking, plus planning and implementing opening celebrations etc. The MTHS staff are currently at capacity regarding workloads.

Emily commented that per IRS regulations, it may not meet requirements if Tom continues to curate the collection because it could put into question whether the items were truly donated. Once we take ownership of the collection, it needs to be handled and exhibited according to MTHS procedures.

Bill Jones said that he would like to make a motion. He stated that the collection is amazing and as much as he wants the collection, with the staff at capacity it is not capable of handling the administrative aspects at this time.

Motion: Bill Jones moved to reject Tom Minckler's proposal at this time. Mary Helland seconded.

Discussion on the Motion:

Steve Lozar asked if the collection could be split up at this time. He wants to keep the Montana items in Montana, however, he would like to know if other states are interested in any parts of the collection. He intends to vote no on the motion.

Ken Robison expressed that he feels Minckler's Collection is the finest collection of Montana artifacts in private hands. He is stunned by the lack of a "can-do attitude" by staff in obtaining the collection. He felt that Molly's letter to Gianforte would have turned him off supporting it as well. As a researcher and historian, he feels the collection is incredibly important to Montana. He believes that it would add both breadth and depth to the MTHS collections. He expressed the importance of letters from Custer to Grant, as well as others that would add to the substance of the MTHS's collection. He will vote no on the motion.

Bill Whitsitt stated that he disagreed with Ken's view of staff. The quality of the staff and the work they do in a difficult and overwhelming time of the Heritage Center project is amazing. He brought up the Collection Policy and reiterated that the policy is to not ignore significant and important collections, but it is a policy to guide the society through a process and a series of decisions that will make it the best it can be in terms of relevance and usage. It's impossible to acquire everything that is important and unique. It is Bill's understanding that half or less of the items in the collection

are of interest to Archives and the Museum due to duplication etc. Bill also feels that we would want to pick and choose, and it doesn't feel as though Tom Minckler is willing to split the collection. Bill supports the motion as he doesn't think we can accept the proposal as it is written.

Carol Donaldson said she is having technical difficulties and doesn't feel she's heard enough of the conversation to make a comment. Tim Fox paraphrased the other trustee's remarks. Carol stated that based on the memo and other comments, she agrees with Bill Whitsitt and his stand, and she supports the motion.

Norma Ashby Smith expressed pain in having to address this conversation as she has seen so many treasures pass through Montana and into other states. Norma is in favor of saving the Minckler collection for Montana and is thankful to Tom for considering this at all. She wants staff to figure out how they can save the collection for Montana. Norma wants staff to sit down with Tom and figure out how MTHS can obtain the collection. She would vote against the motion.

Candi doesn't agree with the motion and felt it was too early to make a motion before a discussion. She doesn't want to shut the door on the collection. Candi expressed that she agrees with Norma that she's grateful that Minckler would offer the collection first to MTHS. Candi is for reaching out to Tom to work through a plan to obtain part of the collection if possible or work through a fundraising plan. She commented on potential donors.

Lorna agreed with Bill Whitsitt, but she wants to leave the door open. Lorna doesn't want to accept the proposition as it is worded. Lorna would vote in favor of the motion at this time with the way Minckler's proposal is stated.

Mary reiterated that she didn't want to accept the proposal as it is written but she is not trying to close the door to the collection and is hoping for a counteroffer.

Tim read an email provided by Jay Russell who could not be here today: [email from Tim Fox].

Tim also provided questions from Jude Sheppard, who was also excused. [email from Jude]

Tim shared his own thoughts. Tom Minckler shared that he has a project he is wanting to fund with the sale of the collection. For tax reasons, he doesn't want to be paid in one lump sum. Tom has already reached out to Montana State University, who opted not to pursue it due to conversations MTHS is having with Minckler. Tom isn't interested in selling it piecemeal; however, he has two auction houses that would sell it that way. There is a time-crunch for Tom, so if MTHS does not accept the offer, he will move on. He has spent a lot of time talking to other institutions and auction houses. Tim believes the short timeframe is not doable. In the future, Tim believes things might change with the completion of the Heritage Center, but right now is not good timing. Tim is inclined to vote in favor the motion.

Closing Comments on the Motion:

Steve clarified that everyone is speaking for their love of Montana for generations to come. Steve wants his children and grandchildren to see things firsthand. He will continue to vote against the motion, he wants everyone to know it's due to his love of Montana.

Ken emphasized that in Tom's package deal he was willing to donate about \$1.5 million of the collection. He also added that the difference between Montanans that would support this substantive collection vs. the building. He thinks there is a donor base out there that would raise the money.

Bill Whitsitt thanked Tim for making sure there was clarity on the motion and that is not closing doors on something else, just that the motion is not for the current proposal. There is a lot of uncertainty about what in the collection is the most significant parts, provided it could be purchased on a piece-meal basis.

Carol thanked the trustees for their thoughtful and considerate remarks. Carol continued to agree with supporting the motion at this time. It will stress too many stakeholders to proceed.

Norma asked to table the motion until the April board meeting. She wanted more time to think about and consider the proposal.

Candi proposed to amend the motion as it feels like a closed-door motion. She would like it to say, "We are rejecting this proposal at this time, but would like to continue considering pieces of the collection."

Lorna doesn't believe we can't afford it at this time. She continued to vote for the motion.

Mary expressed that it feels like the cut comes from Thomas Minckler as his proposal seems very "all or nothing."

Tim's impression is that the timing makes it difficult for Thomas Minckler to continue the process as he is on a time crunch himself. He may move on if we don't accept the terms. Even if MTHS wants some of the collection, it would take considerable time, which is a problem for Tom. Tim's intent is not to close the door, but fully discuss the concerns that all of the board members have, and the board is invited to have these discussions with Tom.

Bill Jones reiterated that it is a difficult decision, which is why he made the motion. He expressed empathy with all the trustees and stated that MTHS is not cutting off the discussion with Tom, but it gives him an opportunity to review his proposal and gives staff an opportunity to reset. Right now, MTHS cannot afford the money or time to accept this offer.

Tim came back to Norma's suggestion to table the motion, which the trustees could take a vote on and ultimately table the motion. Candi could also make a motion to amend the original motion from Bill Jones.

Motion: Norma Ashby Smith moved to table the motion until the April board meeting. Ken Robison seconded. The board took a roll-call vote. The motion failed 7/3.

Candi asked if we tabled the decision, would it give us time to renegotiate with Thomas Minckler? Tim answered that in a way it would and would give the opportunity for a counteroffer.

Motion: Candi moved to amend the motion to state we are not considering Tom Minckler's Proposal at this time but would like to come back to Mr. Minckler to discuss the possibility of purchasing the collection in phases and pieces.

Restatement of the motion: Jenni Carr restated Candi's motion. Candi withdrew the motion due to confusion.

Motion: Candi moved to amend the motion to state that we do not accept the current proposal to acquire the collection but we would like to renegotiate the offer. Norma seconded. The motion failed.

Restatement of the Motion: Bill Jones moved to reject Thomas Minckler's proposal at this time. Mary Helland seconded. The motion passed 7/3.

Tim thanked everyone for the discussion and their efforts. He asked the board and staff to refrain from discussing anything with Thomas Minckler until he can speak with Jude and Molly. He added that if anyone would like to be a part of the discussion with Tom and Abigail Minckler, they should reach out to Molly. It would be helpful if board members would be part of that conversation. The board will follow up with a very appreciative letter to see what we can do in the future. Tim reiterated that there are items in the collection that MTHS would absolutely love to purchase in reasonable time constraints. Tim feels we can make this into a win-win situation down the road.

Candi asked to be part of the conversation with the Mincklers. Tim invited Ken to be part of the discussion as well, and he agreed.

Public Comment: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Tim thanked the staff once again. He wished the board and staff well and that he hoped they felt fulfilled at the end of the day and he's very grateful for their hard work.

Motion: Bill Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Norma seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.