

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 19, 2017 @ 4:30 p.m.**

Present: Mike Ableidinger, Anne Belanger, John Caplis, Claudia Chapman, Jim Conboy, Tuffy Cross, Ann Diamond, Jim Johnson, Steve Lappan, Michelle Miller, Gregg Resnick, Kristen Sharpe, Judy Suszek and Janet Young also Christine Witulski, Executive Director

Absent: Don MacMaster and Carol Witherbee

Meeting Called to Order at 4:37 p.m.

Minutes: Gregg Resnick moved to accept the July Minutes, Anne Belanger supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Judy Suszek gave an overview of the proposed budget for 2017-2018 and answered the few questions posed. Steve Lappan made a motion to accept the budget as presented, Gregg Resnick supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Note the Besser Foundation support of \$260,000--they do not want to fund salaries. They will donate an additional \$30,000 toward the Native American Project, which is a one-to-one match. ED Witulski will talk with the Cook Family to see if there is interest in matching. The Besser Foundation contribution will be in three phases: (1) hire a good design group to capitalize on the floor space--the updated gallery must be financially beneficial to the Museum.

Director's Report:

- Executive Director Christine Witulski submitted her report in writing, which is filed with the Minutes. ED Witulski highlighted the following from the report:
 - a. Fall Harvest Fossil Day will be Saturday, October 7, and will be sponsored by Lafarge and Specification Stones. \$1 Museum admission and \$1 Planetarium admission.
 - b. The Season of Light opening reception will be Saturday, November 18. Anne Belanger made a motion to apply for a liquor license for the event, Jim Johnson supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports

Governance: nothing to report

Collections: Claudia Chapman asked for a motion to accept the following: cash register used at the Jos. S. Zolnierek Store, petition booklet requesting a normal school in Alpena County and one East Michigan Tourist Association Map of Michigan, seven photos of the Huron Portland Cement Company and 44 taxidermy mounts created by Elizabeth "Betsy" Willis. Gregg Resnick made a motion to accept the gifts as presented, supported by Tuffy Cross. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Katherine V: Tuffy Cross reported the Katherine V Fundraiser was a success with 63 people touring the boat and display. The proceeds were \$3,373. A 12' x 20' slab has been poured for the engine. 12 fish boxes similar to what fishermen would have used for shipping fish have been made, with lumber coming from NEMROC. Six mannequins have been placed on the boat for realistic displays. A range light has been donated by Charles Pauquette. Jim Johnson complimented the staff for the hard work and professionalism during the fundraiser.

Chinook: Jim Johnson reported that the contract for developing a master plan for the exhibit and boat has been awarded to Good Design Group. There will be a conference call with the group to have a structured brainstorm session to get the project started.

Planetarium: Steve Lappan reported that the Planetarium UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) for the projector and CPU itself has been purchased but not installed yet. ED Witulski and Steve Lappan will work on a proposal between Alpena Community College and the Museum regarding the use of the Planetarium that is equitable for both parties. They will keep the Board updated as this process proceeds.

Fine Art: ED Witulski reported that the Best Foot Non-Juried Exhibit is a success and a January Winter Blues 2' x 2' non-juried exhibit is in the planning stages.

Native American Exhibit: Anne Belanger reported that she has met with the Cook Family and the next step is to meet with a planner regarding the use of the space. The final product should be an exhibit that is truly modern, updated, innovative, interactive and exciting for the audience. Jim Johnson made a motion to establish a Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Committee with the Chinook/Kat V and Native American Committees serving under that umbrella, supported by Tuffy Cross. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Old Business:

- **Donor Wall Project:** Work is ongoing with Omega Electric.
- **Maltz Bank:** Work by Bliss Painting is ongoing.
- **Back Deck:** Meridian Construction has finished the project and with the recent heavy rain--no leaks.
- **Employee Handbook:** ED Witulski is working on in conjunction with Jim Conboy and our insurance agent. Once completed both Jim Conboy and the insurance agent will review before it is brought before the Board for approval.

New Business:

- **Hand Railings for the Back Loading Dock:** A bid for \$1,700.00 from Stevens Custom Fabrication was presented to provide and install handrails for the back loading dock. Jim Johnson made a motion to accept the bid and proceed with the project, supported by Gregg Resnick. All Ayes. Motion carried. the monies will come from capital monies.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, November 21, at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by Michelle Miller, Secretary