

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Annual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 21, 2017 @ 4:30 p.m.**

Present: Mike Ableidinger, Anne Belanger, Claudia Chapman, Ann Diamond, Jim Johnson, Steve Lappan, Don MacMaster, Michelle Miller, Gregg Resnick, Kristen Sharpe, Judy Suszek, Carol Witherbee and Janet Young (New Members, Jim Conboy and John Caplis) --also Christine Witulski, Executive Director

Absent: Tuffy Cross and Dan Stevens

Called to Order: President Diamond called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Minutes: Gregg Resnick moved to accept the June 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. Carol Witherbee supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Judy Suszek gave a brief overview of the Museum's financial position over the past eleven months--stating the Museum is in a strong financial position and this is an exciting time for the Museum. No questions were posed.

President's Report: President, Ann Diamond began by thanking the Founders' Society, Community and Business Donors, Individuals offering in-kind expertise, Besser Foundation, Board of Trustees and Staff Members. She distributed a Strategic Plan for the Museum for 2017-2021 (copy attached). President Diamond called on Committee Chairs to present their reports.

Standing Committee Reports:

Katherine V: ED Witulski reported that the Kat V Project is nearing completion--the boat is restored, the fishing village nearing completion and the dock is built. The project was completed without grants--in-kind donations totaling approximately \$100,000 and approximately \$20,000 raised through fundraisers. It was a three-year project that took over 2,000 hours with volunteers ranging in age from 75 to 86. Thanks to all who made this dream a reality.

Chinook: Jim Johnson reported that the hope is this will be a Great Lake Fishing Heritage Project. The first meeting of the committee was held June 9, 2016 and thus far the project has been awarded \$10,000 by the Great Lakes Fisheries Grant to further develop the plan and submit a more detailed grant proposal. While the grant committee was intrigued with our plan, they needed a much more detailed outline for its success. This committee works hand in hand with the Kat V Committee to develop a fisheries display.

Planetarium: Steve Lappan reported that the Planetarium upgrade is completed and a Planetarium Director has been hired—Thaddeus LaCoursiere.

Fine Art: Carol Witherbee reported that the Dali Display was a success and the American Print Makers is now on display. The Adopt-a-Print Program has been successful and a great way to get our prints framed and matted with the community's help.

Collections: Danyael Dorr reported that "Coffee with A Curator" was successful--a program which highlighted prints on display in Alpena from the Detroit Institute of Art. The Dali Exhibit and American Print Makers Exhibits will be available for rent to other institutions.

Facilities: Mike Ableidinger reported that the building is in great condition for the age--compliments to Matt Klimczak for a job well done. The back porch and loading dock need attention and those projects will be completed this summer. Parking lot lighting will be switched over to LED lighting this summer also.

Native American Exhibit: Anne Belanger began by thanking the Cook Family for a generous donation to expand the exhibit. The exhibit will tell the story of Native American Culture in Northeast Michigan. She will work with Dr. Richard Clute on the history portion and with additional experts on the interactive programming to make the exhibit come to life.

Education: Janet Young will head this newly-formed committee.

Director's Report: Executive Director, Christine Witulski, presented a PowerPoint presentation of a "Year in Review" with a month-by-month highlight of all the activities that went on in the Museum during June 2016 – June 2017. One of the museum's major focuses of the year is the preparing for the AAM reaccreditation process/site visit.

Governance: The Governance Committee Chair, Steve Lappan, recommended the following candidates for a three-year term ending June 30, 2020
Incumbent Board Members: Ann Diamond, Anne Belanger, Greg Resnick and Don MacMaster; New Board Members: Jim Conboy and John Caplis.
Jim Johnson recommended acceptance of the 2017-2018 slate of Board Members, Janet Young supported. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m

Submitted by Michelle Miller, Acting Secretary