

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

Present: Claudia Chapman, Jim Conboy, Jim Johnson, Michelle Miller, Gregg Resnick, Diane Speer, Judy Suszek, Anne Belanger, John Caplis, Ann Diamond, Janet Young, Heidi Haaxma, Kristen Sharpe and Director Christine Witulski

Excused Absent: Clarence Cross

Absent: Don MacMaster and Mike Ableidinger

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Anne Belanger.

Minutes:

Janet Young moved to accept the February 2019 Minutes, supported by Claudia Chapman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Newly appointed Treasurer Heidi Haaxma presented her first Treasurer's Report based on financial statements for the end of February. Executive Director Christine Witulski said she continues to work with Accountant Marie Williams to come up with the best way to communicate financial reports to the board. She also said Williams advised establishing a Financial Committee and that past Board President Steve Lappan has agreed to serve on this committee. Also agreeing to serve were Judy Suszek and Ann Diamond, if needed. Haaxma, current Board President Anne Belanger and Witulski also will automatically be a part of the committee. Witulski also presented the board with the newly written Capitalization of Assets Policy.

Gregg Resnick made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, supported by Jim Conboy. All ayes. Motion carried.

Gregg Resnick made a motion to accept the Capitalization of Assets Policy as presented, supported by Heidi Haaxma. All ayes. Motion carried.

New Business:

Executive Director Christine Witulski announced the reaccreditation of the Besser Museum, which is a significant accomplishment that she said only about 10 percent of museums nationwide achieve. She also discussed plans to make a formal announcement and get the word out in the public about the significance of accreditation for museums.

Director's Report:

Executive Director Christine Witulski presented her report to the board, stating that there are many things in the works at the museum, including extensive programming planned to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on the Moon. She also discussed plans to host game nights on Thursday evenings and Friday Family Nights, both as ways to increase museum attendance.

Standing Committee Reports:

HR Committee: Jim Conboy reported that the committee will be looking at a sick leave policy for museum employees.

Governance Committee: Gregg Resnick noted that the committee met March 14 and agreed to concentrate on three main areas: becoming experts on the by-laws as a resource for the board, putting together a list of potential future board members and making any needed recommendations for policy changes to keep the museum operating according to best practices.

Collections Committee: Nothing to report

Great Lakes Fisheries Exhibit Committee: Jim Johnson regretfully shared that the \$200,000 GLFT grant was not funded and discussed some reasons why. He said GLFT prefers to fund projects related to education as opposed to construction. Johnson said he hopes the Chinook can be moved into place this year with local funds estimated at \$50,000 and then a new grant filed next year for the exhibit's educational component. The board encouraged him to go this route and remain optimistic.

Johnson also shared that Zach Irving plans to move ahead with the video project involving one of the long-standing Native American gill net fishing families in the region.

Johnson moved to approve the contract with Zach Irving for this project, supported by John Caplis. All ayes. Motion carried.

Native American Exhibit: President Anne Belanger reported there has been some movement on this exhibit. Researcher Matt McCormack has gone through all related files and discovered some information that can perhaps be turned into a story board for the exhibit. Work still needs to be completed on the best way to reconfigure the museum space for this exhibit as well as what all the exhibit will entail in terms of local stories to be told.

Old Business: Ann Diamond reported there is no movement yet on several estate gifts she has been looking into.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 16 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Speer