

MANDAN Historical Society



Board of Directors Meeting

March 13, 2021

Location: Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. Conference Room; 1403 27th St NW, Mandan

Present: President Bob Porter, Secretary Kathye Spilman, Treasurer Bill Engelter, MHSoc Directors Bob Barr & Joel Winckler

Absent: Vice President Walt Russell, Directors Lanie Pope and Sharon Huettl

The meeting was called to order by President Porter at 10:00 a.m. Quorum was present.

Officers' Reports

President's Report: Nothing to Report.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the last meeting were not available. Secretary Spilman reported the annual report to the State of North Dakota had been paid and asked for reimbursement of the \$10 she paid for the annual filing fee. Motion made and seconded to approve reimbursement for the annual fee. Motion approved via voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Engelter reported a checking account balance of \$13,051.88 as of EOY 2020. Kathye Spilman had not yet prepared a final invoice or drafted check for museum expenses including the \$500+ for the HVAC unit.

Treasurer Engelter asked about a unknown \$25 deposit made to the account in early February. Spilman reported it was a check from Margaret Engelter, suspecting it was to renew her Mandan Historical Society membership. Secretary will bring photocopy of the check for his records.

Treasurer Engelter reminded the Board that a budget needed to be developed and submitted to the Morton County Historical Society to qualify for a 2021 disbursement.

Spilman noted 2 likely date errors on the report and offered corrections. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made as corrected, seconded and approved via voice vote without dissent.

Committee Reports

Nomination Committee: No report.

Membership Committee: Treasurer recommended and effort to send out membership reminders. Further action tabled.

Buildings & Grounds Committee: President Porter offered to spearhead the effort to relocate the cornerstone from the First Street Federal Building/Old Post Office/Former Library to a more prominent location near the MHSoc building entrance. He was hoping to coordinate volunteers to construct a concrete plinth and display it slightly elevated to make it easier to mow around. Suggested contacting the county's shop across the street to see if they would move the stone to the new location with a skid steer. He hoped to move the visitor's bench to a better location .

Bill Engelter announced he was exploring options to improve the concrete walkways at the Railroad Museum grounds, including near the Mandan Historical Society building entrance.

Discussions turned to expected operation of the museum in 2021. All agreed to repeat last year's schedule of open from 1 pm to 5 pm on weekends only from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Banner obtained as part of last years "History Harvest" would be reattached to the fence to label the museum's location until a better sign could be obtained and installed.

Key improvement for museum would be a more prominent "OPEN" sign visible from the street.

Communication & Public Relations Committee: A museum's "Grand Opening" was not held last year due to the pandemic. General consensus that another attempt to be made in 2021. Top three dates were Fathers' Day, Fourth of July and first weekend in August. Pros and cons of each explored. Motion made, seconded and approved via voice vote to schedule event Sunday August 1 to further establish that date as the traditional time for the community to support the Mandan Historical Society and its events.

Discussion ensued as to possibility of having a special attraction for the Grand Opening. Speaker, musical performers, free food and food truck on-site were all discussed. Specific action or selection was tabled.

No progress to report on the Middle School Bell display, although Kathye reminded the group she has identified grant funding available for it through SHSND.

Grant Committee: Bill Engelter suggested a application be made to the Mandan Visitors' Committee for funding for the Grand Opening Event.

Bob Barr requested permission to resubmit an application to the ND Pottery Collectors Society. He also asked for the Society to repeat the invitation to provide lunch for them at the Society's museum on Saturday June 12 during their annual meeting in Bismarck. Potential menu and costs discussed. Motion made and seconded and approved via voice vote to extend the invitation.

With the likely hosting this June 12 event and the scheduled opening of the museum Memorial Day, the group agreed to schedule the next Board meeting in early May instead of June.

Secretary Spilman announced the availability of the National Park Service Rural Development Grant (deadline September 1 – millions \$ available) for restoration of historic buildings.

Motion made, seconded and approved via voice vote members to proceed for any and all grants on behalf of the Society they were willing to develop the necessary applications.

Donations & Acquisitions Committee: No report available.

Endowment Committee: No report available.

Old Business

- Heritage Home Signage - Tabled
- Mandan Middle School Bell Display – Tabled

New Business

Secretary Spilman indicated she had located 2 photos in the SHSND archive showing WPA pottery making at the Mandan location and would like to obtain copies and display materials to add them to the pottery display before the June 2021 luncheon for the ND Pottery Collectors Society. Motion was seconded and approved via voice vote members to proceed and cover costs for materials.

The suggestion to “hire” an unpaid summer intern to assist the Society was floated. The individual could send out the membership renewal notices and work on the grant applications, in addition to helping to staff the museum during weekends. Secretary Spilman volunteered to provide office space for the intern including computer, telephone, etc. when not at the office. She offered to develop the job description and post it and coordinate the hire. Motion was seconded and approved via voice vote members to proceed and cover costs for materials.

Next Meeting

May 8 at 10:00 am at Mandan Historical Society Museum building.

Motion to adjourn at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathye Spilman
Secretary

Approved: May 8, 2021