

MANDAN Historical Society



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025

Location: Bennigan's Restaurant, Mandan

Present: President Porter, Secretary Spilman, Treasurer Engelter, Directors Pope & Willoughby

Absent: Vice President Russell, Director Huettl

The meeting was called to order by President Porter at 12:11 a.m. Quorum was present. One guest was present.

Officers' Reports

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the December 5, 2024 meeting were reviewed. No additions or corrections offered. Motion made, seconded & approved via voice vote. Treasurer Engelter asked for confirmation that the most recent Annual Report with the ND Secretary of State had been filed. Secretary Spilman confirmed the filing was completed on-line, with fee charged to her credit card, bill to the Society pending.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer distributed an updated End-of-Year 2024 Treasurer's report. No additions or corrections offered. Motion made, seconded & approved via voice vote. The report will be filed with the Morton County Historical Society. Indicated the need for a budget to be prepared for submission to the Morton County Historical Society.

Bills Presented for Approval: No bills were presented for payment. A corrected check for the \$440 needed to reimburse the ND Council on the Arts for the unused grant was endorsed and will be sent promptly. Comment made about the current healthy \$19,042.41 checking account balance. Secretary Spilman offered a reminder that multiple pending expenses for both building fund, directed grant and endowment fund expenditures that had yet to be presented.

Other Directors' Reports: None offered.

Committee Reports (committees without report not noted)

Ad Hoc Project Committee – Newspapers Digitalization

- No report
- Suggestion to retain enough bound copies of the returned newspapers to fill the display cart at the museum.
- Laine will investigate an agency to recycle old newsprint from the returned papers at no cost to the Society.

Acquisitions & Donations Committee

- St. Joseph's Catholic Church anniversary plates received from member
- Small framed & unframed photos donated from Bair Law Office but discarding frames expected to be discarded due to limited storage space.
- Inquiry received of possible Gary Miller print donation; location in museum discussed

Endowment Committee

- Possible disbursements will be announced in April

Heritage Home Committee

- Melanie Willoughby will review existing project files; may take on role as chair

Membership Committee

- Bob Porter volunteered to stuff envelopes to annual membership drive mailing. Melanie Willoughby offered to help if prior year's files could be provided electronically.
- Raising membership fees was discussed. Further action tabled indefinitely.

Museum Operation Committee

- Bob Porter offered to staff the museum on weekends this season. He will need someone to fill in one weekend, though.
- Kathye Spilman requested approval to replace some of the pottery display with a display on the First Day Covers issued at the Mandan Post office. Consensus apparent to start changing out displays.
- Kathye also asked to make room in the museum closet by discarding a rather large non-Mandan related item. No objection raised. Laine may be able to sell the item on eBay.

Nominating Committee

- Melanie reported she had one, likely two, individuals who are interested in becoming active members in the Society, including serving on the Board.
- Kathye offered to contact idle Board member(s) and inquire on their willingness to continue to serve on the Board.

Public Relations & Communications Committee

- Historic presentations in February and March at MM Public Library.
- Historic artifacts lent to MM Public Library for hallway displays in February & March
- Rejected proposal from India firm to revise website due to concerns over legal issues working with foreign entity. Local firm estimates \$3000-\$4000 not including content transfer of 200+ pages of information. Need for grant dollars apparent to fund a website update. Would expect to add SSL security certificate to website at that time. However, Board seemed satisfied with current website appearance.
- Responses given to multiple inquiries via eMail.

Old Business

- **BNSF Bridge Replacement Mitigation Video Project**
 - Scripts under development.
- **Mandan 1975 Exhibit**
 - On-site event scheduled coincident with July 2025 Watermelon Days
 - List of proposed activities
 - Limited expenses expected - \$250 +/-
 - Not expecting to apply for Mandan Visitor Grant funding
 - Assistance offered with getting 2025 photographs around town.
 - Assistance offered with getting census data
 - Motion made, seconded & approved via voice vote to formally endorse event

New Business

- Treasurer Engelter asked for policy change to require only one signatory for checking account disbursements. Discussion ensued. Motion made to require only one signatory, with either Secretary Spilman or Treasurer Engelter authorized to sign check. Motion seconded & approved via voice vote. Document to be prepared and certified by Secretary to be sent to Starion Bank.

Next Meeting: May 15, 2025, 1:00 PM at the Mandan Historical Society's Museum

Motion to adjourn at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kathye'.

Kathye Spilman
Secretary

Approved: May 15, 2025