

# MANDAN Historical Society



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**May 15, 2025**

**Location:** MHSoc Museum, Mandan

**Present:** President Porter, Vice President Russell, Secretary Spilman, Treasurer Engelter, Directors Huettl, Pope & Willoughby

**Absent:** None

The meeting was called to order by President Porter at 1:03 p.m. Quorum was present. In addition, three guests were also present.

### Officers' Reports

**Welcome Guests:** President Porter acknowledged and welcomed the guests in attendance.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the March 20, 2025 meeting were distributed highlighting one corrected error relating to the date of the Board current meeting scheduled. No additional corrections were offered. Motion made, seconded & approved the minutes via voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer distributed a Financial Report dated May 15, 2025 highlighting an ending checking account balance of \$18,627.41 including a recent addition of \$25 membership renewal from Margaret Engelter. Motion made, seconded & approved to accept the Treasurer's report via voice vote. Secretary Spilman pointed out a recent donation of \$1 from an overseas individual via the online PayPal system – which will be subject to the PayPal transaction fee and online donations are designated for 50/50 split to general operating fund and the endowment fund. Spilman suggestion the entire amount to remain in the operation fund since the de minimus size of the donation, it would not be worth the effort to move half (less than 50 cents) half to the endowment fund. No objections raised. Secretary Spilman repeated reminder multiple pending expenses for both building fund, directed grant and endowment fund expenditures that had yet to be presented or reimbursed.

**Bills Presented for Approval:** No bills were presented for payment.

**Other Directors' Reports:** None offered.

### Committee Reports (committees without report not noted)

#### **Ad Hoc Project Committee – Newspapers Digitalization**

- Scanning and posting of Mandan Pioneer issues still in progress by Newspapers.com
- No recent contact with SHSND staff as to status of their desire to retain certain issue hardcopies to fill gaps in their collection
- Sharon Huettl indicated residents continue to give her issues and intends to inquire if she can also send those items to Liz be scanned by Newspapers.com
- Laine Pope reports old hardcopy issues, in some instances, would be valuable for sale especially when related to significant historical events. Some artists and crafters incorporate old issues into their work.
- For the benefit of the visitors, Sharon summarized the timeline and efforts invested to date in retaining the newspapers and getting them scanned to retain their information.

### **Acquisitions & Donations Committee**

- “Filled” state centennial Coke® bottles and small local anniversaries’-related items were recently donated by Jo Koch. A thank you and IRS-compliant receipt is pending.
- One matted and framed Gary Miller has been donated by the Lange Family. A thank you and IRS-compliant receipt to the family is pending.

### **Heritage Home Committee**

- Existing files from 2008 project related to Heritage Home Marking project have been located and consolidated in a bankers box and turned over to Melanie Willoughby to take, review and contemplate future action as desired.

### **Membership Committee**

- Willoughby did not recall seeing the eMail sent to Board members with electronic copies of membership committee materials. Secretary Spilman will resend eMail.
- Raising membership fees was discussed. Further action tabled indefinitely.

### **Museum Operation Committee**

- Bob Porter will staff the museum on weekends this season but still needs a volunteer to cover the July 11th weekend when he will be out of town.

### **Nominating Committee**

- Wally Russell recently returned to live in Mandan and will be available to continue to serve on the Society’s Board of Directors.

### **Public Relations & Communications Committee**

- Historic presentation scheduled for the last Thursday in June at MM Public Library.
- Historic artifacts lent to Library for hallway display to promote the June event
- Historic information to MMPL staff on past locations, current NP Freighthouse building and recovered lamp stands at their current main entrance from old post office / library.
- Morton County Tax Equalization Department requested assistance on contacting small rural churches and cemeteries to assure they knew about property tax exemption process. Sharon Huettl offered to contact the agency to acquaint her with the existing compilation of contact information.
- A private individual intending to preserve each of Toth’s “Trail of Whispering Giants” carvings asked for a physical assessment of the one in Mandan. Sharon Huettl volunteered to follow-up with the individual.
- Webpage on Elfrida (Trinkler) Kuhn posted
- Responses given to multiple other inquiries via eMail and telephone calls.

### **Old Business**

- **Mandan 1975 Exhibit**
  - Scheduled July 20, 2025 coincident with RR museum’s Watermelon Day event
  - Project was summarized by Bill Engelter for the benefit of the visitors present
  - Assistance requested to distribute notices to community to locate additional 1975 business photographs from private collections
  - Bob Porter and Laine Pope volunteered to get current photos along “The Strip”

- **BNSF Bridge Project Mitigation Videos**
  - Research almost complete
  - Drone overflights at current bridge construction continues
  - Script development continues
- **Bank Account Signatory Requirement Change**
  - Signed notice to bank is still pending

### **New Business**

Treasurer Engelter indicated people were interested in filling open positions on the Board. Secretary Spilman indicated no Board positions were vacant. Copy of the most recent Bylaws as amended in 2022 were reviewed. Engelter offered potential benefits of having a larger Board to accommodate additional people willing to serve. Spilman reminded those present that such action was not taken in 2023 when a similar event occurred. Engelter offered to prepare and present a formal proposal for consideration at a future General Membership or Board of Directors' Meeting.

**Next Meeting:** September 18, 2025, 11:30 PM at the Mandan Bennigan's

Motion to adjourn at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathye Spilman  
Secretary

**Approved: Pending**

**Mandan Historical Society  
PO Box 1001  
Mandan, ND 58554**

**Dear 1975 Mandan Businesses and Former employees.**

**The Mandan Historical Society is undergoing a project called "Mandan 50 Years NOW and Then" We hope to document thru Photos the years 1975 and 2025. For 2025, we are taking pictures of the Businees in Mandan, along with the Churches and Schools and the Public Parks and Public Buildings and Services.**

**In 1975 there is not many pictures of Mandan businesses and Public services. This is where the Mandan Hisorical Society needs your HELP!!!!**

**We have found that in 1975 the Business of:**

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**was listed in the 1975 City Directory.**

**If you have a photo of this business in 1975, plus or minus a year or two, we would like to have a copy of it. All we need is a 4" X 6" copy or the like. I have enclosed an envelope with my address on, which could be mailed to me for the Mandan Historical Society project. They will be used to compare photos of 1975 and those of 2025. Also, you may include a short history of such business.**

**If you have any questions, you may call me at 663-7700. Thank you for such assistance you may give. History of Mandan is important to our community and the present and future generations.**

**Bill Engelter  
Member of the Mdn Hist. Soc. Board**