

Iola Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Cliff Mishler @ 5:37 pm.

Present: Cliff Mishler, Lyle Mork, Doug Watson, Tom Fucik and John Bertelson

Absent: Greg Loescher, Stella Strand

Secretary's report

1. Motion to approve the October 28, 2013 and November 25, 2013 meeting minutes as electronically distributed: Tom, second by Lyle. All approved.

Treasurer's report

1. Tom reported that the 2012 financial audit has not yet been completed, and the one for 2013 is now due. Cliff took possession of the 2012 material and he will see that it gets completed.
2. The State Historical Society annual report is due for 2013, and we need to provide data such as meeting and event attendance, financial summary and a list of officers. Any event where our facility is used should be included.

Discussions

1. Cliff reviewed the 2014 calendar of events. Some of the comments include,
 - a. Cliff will miss the February 24th meetings, so Lyle will preside.
 - b. There will be an event scheduled sometime after April's newsletter to launch a new book covering the history of The Mill. The event may include a book-signing. Someone suggested renaming Iola as "Chandler's Mill" for that day, similar for what New London does annually when it is called "New Dublin" around St. Patrick's Day.
 - c. The Spaghetti Luncheon is planned for April 12th, but Cliff suggested that another event should be added to it to help bring in more people. He is also open to moving the date.
 - d. Joan Paulson and Don Hanson will give a presentation about Waupaca Co. Schools on May 17th. Lee Halverson is coordinating this Pre-Summer Season Kickoff program. A suggestion was made to record the presentation. *[Note: since the meeting, this event will be delayed due to an accident; Lee is exploring alternatives.]*
 - e. The Strawberry Fest is scheduled for June 22nd, with a top raffle prize of \$500. Ticket pricing will be \$2 each and three for \$5.
 - f. An Auction fundraiser is scheduled for July 26th. Greg is organizing the event, with Sterling Strathe as the auctioneer. Doug and Lyle will look through the IHS storage areas for possible items for the auction.
 - g. A special program is being organized by Lee Halverson for an undetermined day in August.
 - h. The Taste of Norway, Lost Arts & Craft Fair is scheduled for October 4th, with a top raffle prize of \$1,000. A second tent is planned in order to make more room in the Machine Shed. By that time the R. I. Anderson display should be set up around the interior perimeter of the building. A possible demonstration on Viking sword making would replace the Norway Travelogue now held in the museum. John will ask the Central Wisconsin Model A Club if they'd like to show some of their cars during the event.
 - i. The IHS Christmas Banquet is scheduled for December 15th. It normally would be the second Monday after Thanksgiving, but this year it will be held on the third Monday.
2. Cliff discussed the IHS booth at this year's Winter Carnival dinner on Saturday. It will be located in the south-east corner of the gym and occupy two spaces instead of one. Doug and Lyle will set it up at 9am, with the event scheduled for 11am until 6pm. Doug needs to leave early, while Lyle will be there until the event ends. Tom and John will show up at 4pm, and then remain to take down the display.
3. Lyle brought up the following items.

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- a. The player piano in the museum needs to be moved due to the start of construction for the Resource Center. Tom suggested building a platform to hold the piano over one of the heating registers in the back of the room.
 - b. Charlie Wasrud has started marking off the floor plan for the Resource Center.
 - c. Lyle made a motion to use \$25,000 in unrestricted funds from Chet Krause to zero-out the negative balances in the restricted accounts, with any remaining money going towards general operating funds. No second was made. Cliff tabled the motion until he could review some correspondence from Chet regarding the funds. Negative balances in the restricted accounts now total \$15,556.46 for the museum, the depot restoration and the Machine Shed.
 - d. Lyle would like to chair the caboose restoration. He would like to work on it in place (outside), with Greg Wasrud working on the roof. Bob Stamstad is comfortable with the plan. The caboose would be restored based on a Green Bay & Western design, with assistance from Doug. The cost is expected to be \$10,000, compared to our current budgeted amount of \$9,900. In addition to Greg and Lyle, Jim Jensen and Roger Olson would also help with the work.
 - e. Lyle asked the whereabouts of the state approved architectural drawings for the Resource Center. He will check with Charlie Wasrud.
 - f. Lyle distributed proposed changes to the IHS Constitution. The last revision had been made in February of 2008. Cliff appointed Tom, John, Greg and Bob Stamstad to a committee to review the changes and come up with a proposal for the March 31st meeting. Tom will chair the committee.
4. A motion was made by Doug to approve the 2014 budget as distributed during the November 25, 2013 board meeting. Lyle seconded the motion. All approved.
 5. Tom asked that a register be created which contains all of the motions for the Historical Society. John will develop.
 6. John discussed restarting the effort to record volunteer hours. He will work with Tom to revise the form.

6:36pm, motion to adjourn: Doug, second by Lyle. All approved.

General Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2014

There were twelve people in attendance who braved the cold weather. Due to the low turnout of members, Cliff considered it an unofficial meeting with regards to conducting official IHS business.

Treasurer's report

- Distributed to those present.

Cliff distributed the 2014 calendar of events.

- Lee Halverson reported that he knows of someone who portrays historical female figures, such as Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Roosevelt, who might be available for one of our events. This may be a possibility for the unspecified program in August.
- Tom Fucik mentioned the book launch for The Mill.
- Cliff talked about the IHS booth at the Winter Carnival dinner.

Cliff read a thank-you letter from the Iola Lionesses to the IHS for hosting the children's visit with Santa after the parade last year.

Cliff presented Lee Halverson with the 2013 Iola Historical Society Volunteer of the Year award.

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Lee Halverson introduced Tom Roemer for the program of the month entitled Cold War Presidential Bunkers and Emergency Communication Sites.

- Tom grew up in Appleton and left college in 1965 after receiving his draft letter.
- He joined the Army with an interest in microwave communications training. After completing various tests, he was asked to consider joining the WHCA (White House Communications Agency). He agreed, and was accepted after passing extensive background checks and a lie-detector test.
- The WHCA began as the Army Signal Detachment in 1941 before becoming the multi-service organization it was when Tom joined.
- In 1947, the Truman Doctrine was the beginning of the U.S. containment policy to limit Soviet expansion, which would later be considered the start of the four decades for the Cold war.
- In 1948, Russia exploded their first atom bomb, which led to the creation of a plan for the continuation of the U.S. government in the event of an atomic attack.
- One communication site was the Raven Rock Complex in Pennsylvania (site R), which is located about six miles from Camp David.
 - The mountain that it was dug into is made up of greenstone granite, which is some of the hardest rock on the east coast.
 - It was created for communications between the Joint Chiefs of the military and the President.
 - It was started in 1959, and completed in 1962.
 - It is bigger than the site at Cheyenne Mountain, and it still may be in use.
 - The communications tower was twelve stories tall, with ten of those stories located underground. The microwave transmitter was aimed towards Camp David.
- In 1966 digital phone equipment first became available.
- The WHCA also maintained communications and security on the Eisenhower farm, which is near Gettysburg.
- The WHCA was not responsible for Congress's bunker. The WHCA was only responsible for the President, since he is the Commander-in-Chief of the military.
- In the book Breaking Cover by Bill Gulley, it is mentioned that Lyndon Johnson had a telephone recording system set up that he controlled. While it was maintained by the WHCA, the Secret Service was unaware of its existence.
- Today satellites and digital technology have replaced the communication equipment familiar to Tom back then.
- After four years with the WHCA, Tom served nine years with the Secret Service before starting his own security company.

Following the presentation, Tom answered a number of questions from the audience.

Minutes recorded by Secretary, John Bertelson