

Iola Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes, October 27, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Cliff Mishler @ 5:36 pm.

Present: Cliff Mishler, Greg Loescher, Tom Fucik, Doug Watson and John Bertelson.

Secretary's report

1. Motion to approve the September 29, 2014 minutes: Tom, second by Greg. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report

1. Motion to approve the financial reports for September: Greg, second by Tom. Motion carried.

Discussions

1. The 2015 budget meeting was tentatively set for 9am Tuesday November 18, 2014 at the Millstone.
2. Results from the Taste of Norway were reviewed. An estimated 400 people attended.
 - a. Tom reported that the preliminary numbers showed \$1,344.33 income. Some adjustments to the figures were discussed.
 - i. Premier Bank, First National Bank and Taste of Elegance sponsorships need to be added.
 - ii. The cost for an electrical fixture installation needs to be removed.
 - b. One vendor was reminded that smoking was not allowed under the tents. May want to post "No Smoking" signs next year.
 - c. The raffle revenue was down about 50%, with most sales occurring on-site.
 - d. Greg reported on the following.
 - i. The food demonstrations were done well, and the food sales were excellent. All lefse was made locally.
 - ii. Crystal Café had to go back to the restaurant to get more pie. They will plan on supplying BBQ pulled pork and other foods as needed in 2015.
 - iii. Taste of Elegance sold out of most of their bakery. They plan to make more in 2015.
 - iv. The Iola Lions ran out of burgers and hot dogs rather early. They had ordered 25% more food than they had in 2013, but last year Crystal Café had also served pork sandwiches which they didn't do this year. Overall food supply coordination will be considered in future event planning.
 - v. For the Chamber Craft & Gift Show, a couple vendors did not show up and one left before it started. Those vendors who did participate ended up doing well. It should be easy to fill both tents in 2015.
 - vi. A couple suggestions were made to improve the use of our museum and village.
 1. Signage denoting that the buildings are open should be considered. A sandwich board could be displayed in front of the museum. Directional signs to each building may help. The Town Hall should have its own sign mounted on the building. Check old photos to see if a sign had been present at one time.
 2. Consider conducting guided tours every half-hour, with a large sign and gathering place outside the Machine Shed.
 - vii. Only five artisans participated in the Lost Arts Fair. Looking to have more artisans for next year, and would appreciate suggestions from anyone who has a possible contact. Jen Wandtke (rosemaling artisan) and her dad (woodcarving artisan) plan to participate again next year.
 - viii. A few ideas concerning marketing were outlined.
 1. The WDUX remote broadcast should be moved up an hour to 9:00 am.
 2. Posters and yard signs should be done earlier and set up in areas beyond Iola too.
 3. Stories for the event were run in Hoopla, Waupaca County Post, Our Community Spirit, Portage County Gazette and Stevens Point Journal.
 4. All of our events in 2015 are now listed on the Wisconsin Department of Tourism website. John will follow up on any corrections.
 3. Charlie Thompson asked about the documentation for the new Resource Center furnace. No one knew where it was.

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4. Cliff reported that a group of students from the I-S High School National Honor Society spread black dirt on the hill near the Town Hall last Wednesday as part of their Community Service Day. The area will be seeded next year.
5. John asked if the board was interested in obtaining an Addressograph-Multigraph machine that was available from another historical society. The equipment had been used to print addresses on mass mailings. Based on the experiences of those familiar with the equipment, the fact that it is heavy and bulky would be a limiting factor in our ability to properly display it. It was decided to pass on the opportunity.
6. John had some photos from another historical society of some iron pieces shaped like bear paws. They knew the pieces were used in some aspect of farming, but that they didn't know any specifics. No one in our group knew either, so it was deferred until the membership meeting.
7. John informed the board of an invitation from the Portage County Cultural Festival for the Iola Historical Society to set up a display. It was decided to decline the invitation due to all of our other activities currently underway. Cliff will send our response.
8. Motion to accept Doug Watson's resignation from the board: John, second by Greg. Motion passed with three ayes and Tom and Doug abstaining.

6:18 pm, motion to adjourn: Tom, second by John. All approved.

General Meeting Minutes, October 27, 2014

Call to order by President Cliff Mishler @6:33pm. There were nineteen people in attendance. The meeting was held in the Resource Center.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Secretary's report

- Motion to approve the September 29, 2014 meeting minutes: Sharon Peterson, second by Martha Cook. All approved.

Treasurer's report

- Motion to accept the September reports: Sue Halverson, second by Lola May Dalland. All approved.
- Tom asked for the submission of any outstanding receipts from the Taste of Norway.
- Lee Halverson asked how the net raffle income compared to the overall Taste of Norway results. Cliff estimated total revenues to be around \$2,000 this year compared to \$2,235 last year. Funds had not been solicited for the second tent this year, so costs were higher. The raffle revenue was down about 50%.

Discussions

1. Greg reviewed the Taste of Norway results (board meeting item 2d)
 - a. The Fun Run prior to the event went well, and plans are to do it again in 2015. The starting time will be 9:00 am, while the TON will start at 10:00 am and last until 3:00 pm.
 - b. Lyle Mork suggested to start contacting vendors and artisans in January.
 - c. Lee Halverson mentioned that there is no need to have someone help to park cars. Plans are to open up more parking by the old tank area east of the museum next year.
2. The High School student service day was mentioned (board meeting item 4).
3. Cliff discussed the decision not to pursue the Addressograph-Multigraph (board meeting item 5)
4. An invitation to participate in the Portage County Cultural Festival was declined (board meeting item 7)
5. John passed around the photos of the "bear paw" (board meeting item 6). No one knew what they were.
6. Lee and Cliff are in the process of installing the shelves in the Resource Center. Two are now in place in the center area, with four more to be added. Smaller shelves will be installed around the perimeter. Bob Stamstad and Martha Cook have been responsible for painting the shelves.
7. Greg asked the members to check out the progress on the Native American display in the museum. Lyle Mork and Doug Watson will continue working on this project over the winter. Ray Reser, who is the Director of the UW-Stevens

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Point Museum of Natural History, has spent four days identifying many artifacts. He is impressed with the collection and is happy to help.

- a. Cliff suggested that we should publicize the display when it's completed. Lyle indicated that sites are being registered with the state.

Elections

- Nominations
 - President – 2 year term – Cliff Mishler. No new nominations.
 - Vice-President – 1 year of 2 year term - vacant. Lee Halverson nominated.
 - Secretary – 2 year term - John Bertelson. No new nominations.
 - Director – 2 year term – Greg Loescher. No new nominations.
 - Director – 1 year of 2 year term – vacant. Sharon Peterson nominated.
- Motion to close nominations: Tom, second by Lola May Dalland. All approved.
- Motion to elect Cliff, Lee, John, Greg and Sharon: Bob Stamstad, second by Don Faldet. All approved.

7:04 pm, meeting adjourned

Minutes recorded by Secretary, John Bertelson

Following the meeting, Doug Watson presented the program "Now and Then: Photos of the Scandinavia Area". Doug moved to the area in 1966. He has photographed every house, building and street as they appear now, and his presentation compares some of these photos to historical photos. While some notes were taken on the 83 photos in the presentation, they aren't much use without the photos; however, some items of interest are worth mentioning.

- At one time there were three hotels in Scandinavia, with the earliest one being built in 1880.
- Photo of a Green Bay & Western potato train stopped at the depot. One distinct feature of the boxcars was the chimney at the top. Stoves in each car were tended to keep the produce from freezing.
- Photo of the Church of the Redeemer, which was built in 1857. It later became Cross Church, and it had a capacity for 1,200 people. At the time it was the largest Lutheran church in America. It was torn down in 1925.
- Photo of The Windmill, which was one of the earliest structures in the area. It was built sometime in the 1870's. It had a tower house electrical generating fan. It housed a business for manufacturing furniture. It was torn down in 1908.
- Photo of a railroad crew on a hand-car. It was taken before 1903, since the old depot is in the background. Prior to the railroad, material had to be "horsed" in.
- Photo of the Scandinavia Vikings baseball team in the late 1970's. The team was first organized in 1946 and is still in existence today.
- Photo of The Rink. It was built in 1885, and it was the civic social center. Plays were held there, the academy basketball team played there and it was also a place for people to roller skate. It burned down in 1928.
- Photos of Clifford Thompson. He claimed to be 8' 7" tall, but was officially 8' 3". At the time he was the second tallest person in the world. He became a lawyer in Iola during WWII. He died in 1955.
- Photo of the steamboat "Silver Lake Queen" on a Sunday afternoon.
- Photo of the first flour mill, which was built in 1856. It was torn down in 1945.
- Photo of the old railroad hub. There were three tracks; one for the 1907 Waupaca to Green Bay line, one for the Green Bay & Western line (Green Bay to Winona, MN) and one for the Iola & Northern line (Scandinavia to Iola).
- Photo of a stone building which was the old creamery. Hans Hermansen was the first butters-maker. He won a gold medal in Paris for his craft.
- Many old buildings were lost to fire.