

Iola Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes, April 28, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Cliff Mishler @ 5:15 pm.

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

Absent: Greg Loescher, Stella Strand

Secretary's report

1. Motion to approve the March 31, 2014 minutes as electronically distributed: Tom, second by Doug. All approved.

Treasurer's report

1. Tom indicated that the cash accounts were in good shape. The amount from memberships was ahead of last year's value, probably because of the dues increases.
2. Tom answered a few miscellaneous questions about the balance sheet. A few expense items were from 2013 that Cliff had submitted after the books had been closed for the year. These expenses were covered by Cliff, which was then booked as a \$2,947.95 in-kind donation for this year. Cliff promised to be timelier with his expense submissions this year.
3. Motion to approve the reports for March: John, second by Doug. All approved.

Discussions

1. Tom outlined his thoughts on clearing up some of the 'project' account balances by using the \$25,000 in unrestricted funds recently donated by Chet Krause. The 'project' accounts will not disappear with zero balances and Tom will continue to track any future donations and/or capital projects associated with those accounts. This is a common accounting procedure used as part of working with an organization's cash flow.
 - a. From a management standpoint, Cliff agreed with Tom's approach.
 - b. Motion: The Board of IHS approves the transfer of \$15,634.63 from the unrestricted donation of Chet Krause to bring the following project accounts to a zero balance; 210 Depot St (\$10,852.01), The Machine Shed (\$1,283.40), Towne Native American Display (\$92.71), and the Depot Restoration Fund (\$3,406.51): Tom, second by John. All approved.
2. Tom indicated his desire to transfer the funds in the Memorial Account, Lifetime Memberships Account, and the Landscape Member Memorial account into the Endowment Account. He was unsure of any specific conditions for the 'Landscape' account, and if any further information is found, the money can always be moved back to this fund.
 - a. Motion: The Board of IHS approves the transfer of \$2,397 from the Memorial Fund (\$1,572), Landscape Memorial Fund (\$25), and the Lifetime Membership Fund (\$800) to the Endowment account: Tom, second by Doug. All approved.
3. Lyle arrived for the meeting at this point in the agenda.
4. Tom presented an opportunity for anyone on the board to upgrade their Microsoft software through a website called Techsoup.org, which is a clearing house for donated software and hardware for non-profits. We have used them in the past for software upgrades, and thanks to a donation from Microsoft they currently have a Professional Plus suite available for \$32 a copy.
 - a. Motion: The Board of IHS approves the purchase of a software upgrade from Techsoup.org for the office computer and any Board member wishing to upgrade to the same software: Tom, second by Lyle. All approved.
5. The comprehensive revisions to the IHS Constitution will be postponed until more time can be devoted by the committee. In the meantime, John will propose some amendments to the committee that are needed now to reconcile our current operations with the Constitution. The expectation is to have the amendments ready for board and membership approval during the meetings in May.
6. Cliff summarized the following promotional initiatives,
 - a. The Waupaca County Tourism Cooperative has put together a promotional program involving several different levels of participation. Cliff has enrolled the Historical Society in the basic package, which involves a listing on their website. This is expected to drive internet traffic to our website. Doug will put a counter on

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our website to judge any effect. Cliff will pay for the first three years of the program, and then we will have to decide whether or not to continue. The cost is \$240 per year.

- i. Cliff had enrolled us as a member of the Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce last fall and has also committed to fund our participation for the next three years.
 - b. The Iola Historical Society is one of the sponsors of the "Passport to History" program, but interest among the other historical societies seems to be waning. A new brochure titled "Visitors Guide to Waupaca County Historical Societies, Museums, and Historic Villages" is being created. Cliff will pay about half of the cost for the initial 10,000 copies, with the other historical societies helping to cover the rest of the costs. There are nine historical societies in Waupaca County. Tom suggested creating a digital copy of the brochure for posting on websites.
 - c. The Iola Historical Society will participate in the new community map/brochure that the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce is developing. The cost to the IHS will be \$200.
7. The plans for the Potato Alley historical marker are still on Cliff's desk.
 8. Program notes have now been separated from the meeting minutes that John distributes. Doug has added these notes to our website under the section labeled "Meeting Programs".
 9. Doug has come up with a preliminary concept for the sponsorship and adoption program involving the IHS buildings. Cliff and Doug need to finalize the program, then fundraising will begin.
 10. The prioritization of IHS projects was discussed. There are five main projects that need to be completed, which include,
 - a. The Robert and Stella Strand Resource Center
 - b. The display cabinets in the museum
 - c. Restoration of the caboose
 - d. Renovation of the depot exterior
 - e. The R.I. Anderson display in the Machine Shed
 - i. Doug suggested the creation of a project list for each building
 - ii. Lyle said that money should be raised prior to any work on a project
 11. Doug has found a camcorder available for \$449 along with a wireless mike for \$229. The purchase of both would be well under the \$1,000 designated for such equipment.
 - a. Motion to purchase the \$449 camcorder and \$229 wireless mike: Lyle, second by Tom. All approved.
 12. John read the following note from Jim Taylor, **"...everyone should be very proud of the accomplishments of this organization....Congrats...to the Board and its volunteers."** Jim is the great-great grandson of Jens Jacob Torgerson, whose home is across from the old Torgerson School. The home is now owned by the Wasrud Family.

6:25pm, motion to adjourn: Tom, second by Cliff. All approved.

General Meeting Minutes, April 28, 2014

Call to order by President Cliff Mishler @6:30pm. There were twenty-one people in attendance. The meeting was held in the Fire Station.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Secretary's report

- Lyle Mork said it was Sharon Peterson, not him, who was going to check on other pig roast vendors (last discussion item for the General Meeting on March 31, 2014).
- John reported that the program notes are now separate from the meeting minutes and can be found on our website.
- Motion to approve the March 31, 2014 meeting minutes: Sharon Peterson, second by Kathy Bestul. All approved.

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Treasurer's report

- Tom mentioned that both the number of members and the dues from members are up nicely.
- Lyle asked if the members should also approve of the \$15,634.63 in transfers to project funds (Board meeting discussion item 1b). Tom said that it was not an actual expense, so a member vote was not necessary.
- Motion to approve the March report: Sue Halverson, second by Don Faldet. All approved.

Discussions

1. Cliff covered items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 10 from the Board discussions.
2. Cliff mentioned that the volunteer worksheet should be filled out whenever a member does some work for the Society. Charlie Thompson asked when they needed to be turned in. John said to submit them when they are filled up, since the information is only needed by the end of the year. John will create reports from the data.
3. Sharon Peterson gave an update on the work for the new Memorial Day event, held in conjunction with the American Legion,
 - a. The pig roast will be done by Bill Opperman and held in the Machine Shed.
 - b. Potato salad, cole slaw and deserts will also be served.
 - c. Sharon will get decent quality paper plates along with the necessary tableware.
 - d. The parade and service are expected to be done by 12:15pm, so the pig roast will start soon after.
 - e. Martha Cook, Lola may Dalland, Phyllis Morris, Betty Nassen, Sue Halverson, Donna Hooker and Nellie will help serve during the event.
 - f. The meal price will be \$9 per plate for the non-veterans.
 - i. Lyle Mork asked about the actual cost for each meal, but that will have to be determined. The \$9 should more than cover the cost.
 - ii. Doug Watson asked about who will distribute the free meal tickets to the veterans. It was decided to ask the American Legion to help with this. The honor system will also be respected for those who do not have a ticket and mention that they are a veteran when they get in line.
 - g. Lyle suggested that American flags replace the Norwegian flags in the Machine Shed for the event.
 - h. Doug is working on a "Thank You For Serving" banner for the event.
 - i. Doug and Lyle will work on special "Gold Star" panels to honor people from the area who lost their lives in service. These panels will be displayed in the Machine Shed.
 - j. Doug plans to use the soon-to-be acquired camcorder to capture the event.
 - k. Lyle reported that the new Lee Nelson display in the museum will be ready for the event. Lyle will lead the dedication.
 - i. Lyle suggested that Gene Wasrud be made an honorary member of the Society as part of the dedication. Cliff said that the board will take it under consideration.
 - l. Don Faldet, Lee Halverson, Cliff Mishler, John Bertelson and Doug Watson will serve as docents. Roger Nassen will handle refuse duty.
4. Cliff had the Strawberry Fest raffle tickets available for members to pick up. They are \$2 each or three for \$5.
5. Lyle mentioned that members should check out both the R. I. Anderson and the museum cabinet displays. He will have them open after the meeting.
6. Lyle reported that Flora Jerome passed away March 3rd as a result of an accident. She was an honorary member and was very active in the Society as well as the community, along with her husband Jerome (Jerry), while they were residents of Iola.
7. Sharron needs members to sign up in May for the summer docent program.

7:00 pm, motion to adjourn: Martha Cook, second by Kathy Bestul. All approved.

Minutes recorded by Secretary, John Bertelson

Following the meeting Lee Halverson led the monthly program, where some audience members showed their items they thought might be historically interesting. Following the program Lee announced that the next monthly program will be in September. There will be some summer programs on select Saturdays.