

Iola Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes, August 25, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Cliff Mishler @ 5:32 pm.

Present: Cliff Mishler, Greg Loescher, Tom Fucik, John Bertelson and Stella Strand (second half of meeting).

Absent: Doug Watson

Secretary's report

1. Motion to approve the July 28, 2014 minutes as written by Tom in John's absence: Greg, second by John. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report

1. Tom mentioned the late receipt of a bill for the Strawberry Fest in the amount of about \$200. John asked if this was reflected in the July financial reports, and Tom said it was.
2. John expressed concern in the drop of \$478 in net income from the Strawberry Fest in 2014 compared to 2013. Looking at the detailed report, costs were higher by \$282 and revenue was lower by \$146, with \$50 less in donations. Details for the loss in net income will be further examined during budgeting for 2015.
3. The main concern, which is also shared by the other members of the board, is that the raffle and event proceeds along with the membership dues need to be sufficient to cover the daily operating expenses for the Historical Society. More focus will be devoted to this during the budget process.
4. Motion to approve the financial reports for July: Greg, second by John. Motion carried.

Motions

1. Motion by Tom, second by John, to accept Lyle Mork's verbal resignation from the board during the membership meeting on July 28, 2014 in lieu of written notification to the board.
 - a. The motion was approved by Cliff, Greg, Tom and John.
 - b. Cliff will ask the membership if anyone is interested in filling the vacant position. John will review the Constitution with regards to the procedures for filling the position.

Discussions

1. Of the twenty-eight priority projects for the Society, the board agreed that the focus should be on the top six. Further development will occur during the 2015 budgeting process for the following projects,
 - a. 1901 Fire House – Rebuild Wood Door Exteriors, etc.
 - b. Caboose Restoration – Inside and Out; GB&W Exterior
 - i. Lyle Mork had agreed to spearhead the effort. Cliff will follow up with Lyle.
 - c. Depot Roof – Cedar Shakes; Redo in Stages? S&W / N&E
 - d. Depot Exterior – Finish Bay Window, Redo Siding, Paint GB&W colors
 - e. Rebuild RR Speeder Work Shack – View Windows North and South
 - f. Sponsor, Adopter Program – Funding Commitments with Appropriate Signage
2. The Carbonite back-up program for the office computer was initiated by John prior to this meeting. This will save the information on the web to prevent any loss due to problems with the computer. It cost \$59.99 for a one year subscription. Large files will not be done in the initial set up, but they can and will be backed up manually with the program. There are 23,465 files that are identified for the initial back up. Greg's experience is that it will take awhile.
 - a. The board may want to consider a new computer and operating system sometime soon. Lyle Mork has mentioned some past problems with starting up the computer, while the XP operating system is no longer being supported by Microsoft. This will be further discussed during the budgeting process. Eric Danielson will be consulted to help address our computing needs.
3. Cliff reported that the Waupaca County Rural Schools presentation by Don Hanson and Joan Paulson went well this past Saturday. About thirty people were in attendance, and many stayed after the presentation to visit and look around.
 - a. A few photos of the Shady Grove School were donated by a visitor.

Iola Historical Society

- b. Holly Neumann videotaped the presentation. The plan is to edit the video and show it in the school house during events and summer Saturday open houses.
 - c. After the presentation, Chet Krause spoke to Lee Halverson about giving a presentation to the Historical Society along with Cliff Mishler. The subject is not known at this time.
4. Discussion about how to better utilize Historical Society information for public consumption was postponed until Doug is available.
5. Approximately thirty school students from the Amherst area are planning to visit on September 29th. They plan to arrive around 10am. They will bring their own lunches, so tables will be set up in the Machine Shed for their use. Charlie Thompson will check his schedule to see if he is available that day to talk about the R. I. Anderson display. Docents are needed for the visit. Cliff will send out more details as they are known.
6. The planning for the Taste of Norway will be further discussed during the membership meeting. Mary Ann Rice will represent Northland Church, and Jerry Harvancik will represent the Lion's Club. This year the plan is to offer hot dogs and burgers. Charlie Thompson will work on the availability of the Tractor Club to have some equipment displayed.
 - a. The raffle tickets are available for sale.
7. The shelves for the racks in the Resource Center will be arriving this Tuesday. They are 3/8" plywood and will rest on 2"x4" slats. Charlie Thompson expressed concern, since 3/4" plywood would be better. It is too late to change now.
 - a. Bob Stamstad and Martha Cook have volunteered to paint the shelves.
8. Greg handed out the new Iola & Scandinavia area promotional brochure from the I-S Chamber of Commerce. Six historical markers have been added to the Iola village map.
9. Greg noticed that the base of the propane building has been cleaned and scraped. It is now ready to be painted.

6:18 pm, adjourn

General Meeting Minutes, August 25, 2014

Call to order by President Cliff Mishler @6:37pm. There were twenty-two people in attendance. The meeting was held in the nearly completed Robert and Stella Strand Resource Center.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Secretary's report

- Motion to approve the July 28, 2014 meeting minutes: Lee Halverson, second by Joanna Rheingans. All approved.

Treasurer's report

- Cliff pointed out that the revenues were down and the costs were up for the Strawberry Fest. He expressed the need to look at it and other events more critically during the 2015 budgeting process in late October or early November.
- Tom mentioned that we are still in good shape financially going into the fall and winter. There is nearly \$50,000 in the cash accounts, with about \$16,000 available for unrestricted use.
- a. Motion to accept the July reports: Martha Cook, second by Stella Strand. All approved.

Discussions

1. Cliff mentioned that the new I-S Chamber of Commerce brochure is now available. Greg gave out a few samples.
2. Of the approximately thirty projects considered important to the Historical Society, Cliff mentioned the following top six as determined by the board last month. More information will be shared with the membership next month.
 - a. 1901 Fire House (Rebuild Wood Door Exteriors, etc.)
 - b. Caboose Restoration (Inside and Out; GB&W Exterior)
 - c. Depot Roof (Cedar Shakes; Redo in Stages?, S & W / N & E)
 - d. Depot Exterior (Finish Bay Window, Redo Siding, Paint GB&W Colors)
 - e. Rebuild RR Speeder Work Shack (View Windows North and South)
 - f. Sponsor, Adopter Program (Funding Commitments with Appropriate Signage)

Iola Historical Society

3. To help preserve all of the electronic information created by Lyle Mork, the Carbonite file backup system was installed on the office computer today. The program saves the information on “the cloud”, which is essentially off-site storage accessible through the internet. John reported that the program is presently backing up 23,465 files representing 48.3 GB of memory. The process will take several days to complete.
 - a. Someone asked what would happen if the power goes out? John wasn’t sure, but he will check the office periodically to make sure the program is still running.
 - b. Files larger than 4 GB, videos and executable files are not initially backed up, so John will have to do these manually.
4. Cliff reported that about thirty people attended the Waupaca County Rural Schools presentation by Don Hansen and Joan Paulson the past Saturday in the IHS Schoolhouse.
 - a. Lee Halverson received some photos of the Shady Grove School from Mrs. Miller. These were given to Cliff.
 - i. Lee talked a little about the tornado that hit that school back in the 1940’s. One of the survivors had given their recollections during the presentation, after being asked by Don Hansen.
 - b. Cliff asked the membership if anyone knew how many total rural school districts were created in the county. Don mentioned during his presentation that there were 130 total.
 - c. The presentation was recorded by Holly Neumann. The video will be edited for eventual use in the schoolhouse.
5. On Monday September 29th, about thirty to thirty-five visitors from an Amherst home-schooled group will tour our facilities.
 - a. Tables need to be set up in the Machine Shed for them to eat their lunch.
 - b. Greg reported that the Thursday Night on Main Family Night on July 31st had to be relocated from downtown to the Machine Shed due to questionable weather. He estimated that only about 10% of those in attendance had ever been down to the Historical Society before. The kids seemed to have a good time.
 - i. The group agreed that our facilities should be utilized for more public events.
6. The plywood for the Resource Center shelves will arrive tomorrow. Martha Cook and Bob Stamstad have volunteered to paint them. The shelves will be installed in the west end first. Stella Strand will dedicate the room when it is completed.
7. Sharon Peterson mentioned that she and a cousin had visited the Historical Society in Almond this past weekend. They only have one room for their material. Sharon told them about our facilities, and mentioned that our park is open on Saturdays during the summer if they would like to visit. Sharon suggested that we invite other historical societies to visit our facilities next summer.
8. Cliff asked for candidates to fill our vacant Vice-President position on the board. Cliff is looking for nominees to be presented at our September meeting, with an election or appointment planned for our October meeting.
9. Lyle was asked for some signed copies of his Iola Mills book. He provided them after the meeting.

PLANNING: 5th Annual Taste of Norway, Lost Arts Fair & Chamber Fall Craft Show.

1. The first prize for the raffle is a quilt. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. Cliff had bundles of tickets available for pickup after the meeting. The drawing during the event is expected to take place at about 2:45pm.
2. Activities:
 - a. Norwegian Pastries; Northland Lutheran Church Ladies (Mary Ann)
 - b. Lefse Demonstration; M & R Lefse Makers (Martha & Bob)
 - c. Food Service; Iola Lions Club, Crystal Café, Taste of Elegance (Jerry Harvancik & Greg)
 - i. The Lions will serve hamburgers and hot dogs. Hot dogs will come from Pine Grove. The quantity will increase amount from 100 brats last year to 150 hot dogs this year. Jerry will work with Doug at Sentry for the hamburgers. Plan to have about 100 burgers. The Lefse will be made by Sherry Floistad.
 - ii. The Lions will have a collection box available to receive used hearing aids and glasses.
 - iii. The Crystal Café is expected to serve a selection of pies.
 - d. Lost Arts Fair; Iola Historical Society (Lola May)
 - i. Linda Kasten, Patty Kersener, Jerry Johnson and Leonard Haroldson are expected to attend along with a few others.

Iola Historical Society

- ii. Lyle Mork mentioned that Kay Durant will demonstrate Norwegian woodcarving. She will have her own tent.
 - e. One Room Schoolhouse Experience; Norskeland Lodge 5-580 (Lola May)
 - i. Plans are to have stories, singing and crafts for the children.
 - ii. Mary Larson is no longer able to do the Troll's Workshop, but she is willing to help organize it. Cliff will ask Robbie Louison if he is available to help.
 - iii. A corn shelling machine will be set up outside the schoolhouse, as was done last year. Don Faldet will hopefully have some dry corn to use this year. Cliff will have the sheller mounted on some plywood to provide more stability.
 - f. Fall Arts & Crafts Fair; Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce (Greg)
 - i. Mary Schwartz is taking reservations. It will be set up in its own tent.
 - g. Tractor Club (Charlie)
 - i. Plan to have the tractors dispersed around the grounds, between the various tents.
 - h. Museum (Lyle Mork)
 - i. The Native American display may not be completed. If that is the case, Greg suggested that signs be displayed indicating when it is expected to be completed.
 - ii. No video will be shown this year.
 - i. Machine Shed, R.I. Anderson display (Charlie)
 - i. Don Faldet is donating a motor for the display, but it won't be set up for the event. Charlie plans to get the equipment operational over the winter.
 - j. Firehouse Activity w/ Extinguisher Certification; Iola & Rural Fire Department (Chuck Fritz)
 - i. This will be scheduled from 10am until 3pm
 - ii. Cliff will check if one of the current fire trucks can be put on display for the event.
 - k. WDUX Remote (Greg)
 - i. Will be from 10am until 1pm. The I-S Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring it.
 - ii. Looking for someone to speak Norwegian during the broadcast. Don Faldet is being considered.
- 3. Other considerations
 - a. Sharon said that docents will be needed for all buildings.
 - b. Greg mentioned that participants from the Fitness Center Fun Run are scheduled to go by the Machine Shed around 9am the day of our event. They should be out of the area by 9:30am.
 - c. No one has been set up yet to provide entertainment. Greg will check on the availability of Rebecca and Ann, the violinists from last year. Lee Halverson suggested that more than one performer be scheduled due to the length of the event. Greg will check with Tammie Jo to see if any other of her students would be interested.
 - d. Charlie Thompson suggested having more picnic tables set up around the grounds this year.
 - e. Greg plans to promote the event over two WDUX Breakfast Shows. The first show will emphasize the community aspect, while the second one will focus on the Norwegian heritage of the area.
 - f. Greg will take care of the signage this year. Nine large banners and thirty-five yard signs are available.
 - g. Lee will check with Mortenson's on allowing parking for the event.
 - h. Cliff plans to set up the Machine Shed similar to last year. John will check the records to see how many tables need to be set up.
 - i. Sharron said that the thirty tables set up for Strawberry Fest were too many.
 - ii. Plans are to set up eight chairs per table.
 - i. Most of the set up will occur on the Wednesday before the event. The tents will be set up on Friday.

7:35 pm, motion to adjourn: Joanna Rheingans, second by Sue Halverson. All approved.

Minutes recorded by Secretary, John Bertelson