

Iola Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Cliff Mishler @ 5:34 pm.

Present: Cliff Mishler, Greg Loescher, Lee Halverson and John Bertelson.

Absent: Tom Fucik, Sharon Peterson and Stella Strand

Secretary's report

1. Motion to approve the October 27, 2014 meeting and November 20, 2014 budget minutes: Lee, second by Greg. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report

1. Deferred until the membership meeting, which Tom is expected to attend. Will defer the discussion of consolidating project accounts until the February meeting.

Discussions

1. John will draft revisions to the Historical Society Constitution and By-Laws for review in February or March.
2. The direction of the Honorary Life Membership recognition was discussed. The intent is to transfer \$200 out of general funds and into a separate fund where a designated amount is removed annually to cover operational expenses. Plans are to incorporate the process into the Constitution revision work.
 - a. A nominee for the Honorary Life designation was brought up, with possible recognition later in the year.
3. The 2015 Events/Program Schedule was reviewed.
 - a. Board/General meetings Monday February 23, Monday March 30, Monday April 27, Tuesday May 26, Monday June 29, Monday July 27, Monday August 31, Monday September 28 and Monday October 26 (annual elections).
 - i. Strand Resource Center dedication during the April 27th meeting.
 - b. Iola Hospital/Sanatorium Historical Marker dedication in May, possibly during Iola Lioness village-wide rummage sale on Saturday May 9th.
 - c. Monday May 25, noon to 3pm, 2nd Annual Memorial Day Tribute Pig Roast.
 - d. Saturday May 30, Iola Historic Village & Museum opens for the summer, noon to 3pm, every Saturday until end.
 - i. Possible Saturday lecture programs
 1. Eleanor Roosevelt reenactor during an evening at the Millstone.
 2. Tom Roemer's experience with the Secret Service.
 - e. Sunday June 28, 11am to 3pm, 31st Annual Strawberry Fest, Appraisal fair and Craft Show.
 - i. The Craft Show is new to the event. Cliff handed out a brochure for review. Vendors will be asked to donate \$10 for each booth they use. It will be set up in the plaza area of the Historic Village.
 1. Motion to approve the addition of the Craft Show to the Strawberry Fest: John, second by Lee. Motion carried.
 2. Greg mentioned that the I-S Chamber has a booth at the Waupaca Home Show for the end of March, so it would be nice to hand out the brochures there.
 - f. Towne Collection dedication sometime in late July.
 - g. Machine Shed dedication sometime in August.
 - h. R.I. Anderson Display dedication sometime following Machine Shed dedication.
 - i. Saturday August 29, Last day for Iola Historic Village & Museum open house, noon to 3pm.
 - j. Potato Alley Historical Marker dedication in late September or early October, possibly a part of the Taste of Norway on October 3rd.
 - k. Saturday October 3rd, 10am to 3pm, 6th Annual Taste of Norway & Lost Arts Fair; Annual I-S Chamber Fall Craft & Gift Show.
 - l. Saturday October 31, 4pm to 8pm, Historic Village & Museum Halloween Adventure.
 - m. Saturday December 5, 1pm to 3pm, Post Parade Visit with Santa in the Machine Shed.
 - n. Monday December 21, 5:30pm, IHS Annual Christmas Potluck Banquet at the Millstone.

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- o. Monday January 25, 2016, first Board/General meeting of 2016
 - p. School House Hill Ski Jump Marker dedication possibly during the 2016 Winter Carnival. Post will have to be set prior to the ground freezing.
4. The contact information for the Village Dam Emergency Action Plan has the office phone listed. Since no one is usually in the office, either Greg or Tom will be asked to be the first contact in case of a potential flooding situation. The same person should also be considered the first contact in the event of a security alarm.
 5. The book sales and accounting policy will be deferred until February. A couple inquiries have been made for From the Indian Lands book, which will be answered by Cliff.
 6. Greg has purchased some clear plastic donation boxes for the Historical Society. They also have a place to hold 8½"x11" sheets so that they can be customized for use in several different venues.
 7. Volunteer hours reports for 2014 were handed out by John. There was no need to modify any of the information provided by the volunteers.
 8. President Mishler suggested that the Historical Society might consider providing financial support for local Boy Scouts to attend Philmont Ranch. Scouts are chosen based on merit, with costs around \$750 for each one. Some of the Scouts did help to clean under the depot. Some concern was expressed about setting a precedent of donating to a non-profit group not directly affiliated with history. This will be discussed further in February.

6:30 pm, motion to adjourn: John, second by Lee. Motion carried.

General Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2015

Call to order by President Cliff Mishler @6:36pm. There were fourteen people in attendance. The meeting was held in the Machine Shed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Secretary's report

- Motion to approve the October and November 2014 meeting minutes: Tom Fucik, second by Greg Loescher. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report

- Tom reported that the end of 2014 cash balances looked good. There was nearly \$21,000 in unrestricted cash and about \$12,000 in restricted cash. Deferred revenue totaled \$3,510, which represents 2015 dues paid in 2014. This amount will be reversed in January's report.
- As for the year to year comparisons, Tom highlighted the following,
 - Net raffle revenue was \$1,282 in 2014 compared to \$1,324 in 2013
 - Net fundraising revenue was \$1,456 in 2014 compared to \$148 in 2013 (this is mostly book sales)
 - Net Strawberry Fest revenue was \$1,004 in 2014 compared to \$1,482 in 2013
 - Net Taste of Norway revenue was \$878 in 2014 compared to \$844 in 2013
 - Net Memorial Day event revenue was \$755 in 2014 compared to \$336 for the Spaghetti Luncheon in 2013
 - Net membership revenue was \$6,095 in 2014 compared to \$5,460 in 2013
 - Overall net revenue was \$30,352 in 2014 compared to \$82,643 in 2013. The large difference is because the 2014 value now represents only unrestricted revenue, while the 2013 number contains both restricted and unrestricted revenue.
 - Operating expenses totaled \$19,929 in 2014 compared to \$14,889 in 2013. Some of the expenses booked in 2014 were actually from 2013. One expected cost increase was for utilities, which went from \$4,497 in 2013 up to \$6,039 in 2014. This is expected to further increase in 2015 now that the Resource Center is completed.
- The fundraising letter had a very positive response in December, with \$3,080 raised in unrestricted funds and \$1,800 raised in restricted funds. Thank you to all those who provided this extra support for our activities.
- Motion to accept the December reports: Sue Halverson, second by Roger Nassen. All approved.
- Tom asked for a couple volunteers to audit the 2014 financials.

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Discussions

1. Cliff read a thank you note from Ruth Johnson, of the Iola Lionesses, for hosting the Santa Visit in the Machine Shed after the parade last month.
2. The Central Wisconsin Co-Op donated \$400 to the Historical Society. It is an unrestricted gift.
3. Cliff briefly reviewed items 1, 2, 3e and 6 from the discussions in the board meeting.
4. The schedule of 2015 was reviewed, with the following comments noted.
 - a. Signage is needed for the Strand Resource Center.
 - b. Charlie Thompson asked that the R.I. Anderson Display dedication be held on a different day of the week than Saturday.
 - c. For the dedication of the Towne Native American Display, it will depend on the availability of Lyle, Doug, Ray and Wayne. Doug reports that two displays are completed and waiting for Ray's approval. There are five more displays to get done. This will be furthered discussed in February
 - d. Lee is still looking for topics for the Saturday lectures.
 - e. There will be a Historical Society booth at this year's Winter Carnival on February 7th from 1pm until 6pm. Cliff will set it up at the school, and Tom will help with the take down. Roger Nassen offered to help at the beginning and Sue Halverson will help after 3pm.

7:13 pm, meeting adjourned

Minutes recorded by Secretary, John Bertelson

Following the meeting, Charlie Thompson presented the program "A Night at the Museum". Charlie gave a tour of all the equipment around the interior perimeter of the Machine Shed. Some items of interest are as follows, starting from the south-east corner of the building.

- Fanning mill was donated by Don Faldet. It had been stored at the Co-Op before being purchased by Don. It was manufactured in August of 1942, and it sold for about \$1,000. They are still being made today, but the cost is around \$15,000. The machine is used to clean the chaff off of oats.
- Bean thresher was donated by L. J. Smith. Charlie was not sure how it actually worked.
- Blower for a forge was donated by Ingval Olson, who was an area blacksmith.
- Wagon was donated by the Bestul family. It had been built upstairs of what is now the Iola post office.
- Ox yoke was donated by Charlie's grandfather. Charlie built the holder for its display.
- Three more fanning mills from various donors. Note the one with the rosemaling. Many of these were artistically designed.
- The lathe came from the mill.
- Loom actually belongs to Gerry Johnson, who demonstrates during our events. When Charlie gives tours to 3rd grade students, this is one of their favorite items.
- McCormick-Daisy reaper was used to harvest light oats. It saved a lot of time and effort compared to using a hand-scythe.
- Homemade wagon made from an old car chassis is a common design.
- Dugout canoe is on loan from Tom Fucik. It came out of Selmer Lake and is several hundred years old. It is open in the back, as it was used to harvest rice.
- Some of the equipment in the R. I. Anderson display includes a lathe, a milling machine, a wooden chest, and a 1912 drill press. The wooden chest helped to keep moisture off the precision measuring tools.
- Centrifuges used to test the butterfat content of milk. Charlie remembers using them as a student in the FFA.
- Washing machine made by John Barkimo, who was a well known wood carver in Northland.
- Soo Line speeder, which was a railroad repair vehicle that had replace the hand-car. This one is in excellent shape, and it may have come right off the manufacturing line since it seems to have very little wear. It's not known where it came from. One unique feature is the Fairmont engine, which uses a flywheel design to enable it to easily run forward and reverse with the flip of a lever (no clutch).