

Iola Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes, May 26, 2015

This month's meeting was held in the Helvetia Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order by President Cliff Mishler at 5:28 pm.

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

Absent: Sharon Peterson and Stella Strand (Sharon was at the General Meeting)

Secretary's report

1. Motion to approve the April 27, 2015 meeting minutes: Lee, second by Tom. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report

1. Tom reported that there was not much activity in April, and the cash flow still looks good. Both the revenues and expenses were in line with expectations. Membership expenses of \$49 were for stamps, while \$103 went to Stern's for repairs. Ron Kranski was one of Charlie's helpers on the R.I. Anderson display.
2. Tom transferred \$1,500 to the endowment account to consolidate some restricted funds.
3. Motion to approve the April 2015 financial reports: Greg, second by Lee. Motion carried.

Discussions

1. Pig Roast review
 - a. Opportunities for future collaboration with the American Legion were discussed.
 - b. Five one-gallon plastic bags of leftover pork were frozen and will be used at the Strawberry Fest.
 - c. Cole slaw and potato salad ran out, but there were no issues with getting more.
 - d. There is not enough room in the refrigerator. John has an old refrigerator that he got from Tom, and he will bring it over for future use.
 - i. Charlie Thompson suggested that the refrigerators be put on dollies for easier movement.
 - e. Need carry-out boxes for next year. Tome will look into sources. The Iron Grill uses a paper one that is nice.
 - f. No one was available to monitor the grounds this year. This is a must for next year.
 - i. Possibly set up an area with a sign for tour starting points. A member could give a five-minute overview, and then let the guests tour the grounds.
 - ii. Someone visiting the school house mentioned a mistake in one of the school photos to Lee. He noted the correction.
 - g. Cliff thanked John for manning the registration table, but it was a missed opportunity for members of the Legion to greet others. Cliff will discuss it with the Legion for next year.
 - h. Lee mentioned an e-mail he had received thanking us for hosting the event.
 - i. There were between 186 and 218 seats that were set up, and having the registration in the back of the building allowed the line of people waiting to be mostly under shelter. There were at most 5 or 6 people who had to stand briefly outside when the line was at its longest. There was never anyone waiting to be seated, and people seemed comfortable to just sit and visit after they ate.
 - j. It was good to have people available to bus tables. Cliff, Sharon and Sue all helped with that.
 - k. Cliff will check with the Boy Scouts to see how they did.
 - l. A couple items were offered for our consideration.
 - i. Greg mentioned the possible availability of some railroad memorabilia
 - ii. Cliff was offered a 45-star U.S. flag. We already have one, but this would allow for one to be displayed along with the explanation that this was the longest flag in use in our history.
 - m. John will send Cliff the list of the veterans who registered.
2. Lee had a number of suggestions regarding the Town Hall.
 - a. Use the Town Hall for rotating exhibits.
 - i. Cliff suggested a two-year limit.
 - b. Should a replica Helvetia Town Hall sign be created for the outside of the building?

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- c. Does the piano belong in the building?
 - d. Keep the cook stove, which was in the building when it was used as a town hall.
 - e. Should signs be created to identify the items?
 - f. Possibly replace the ski hill exhibit for one revolving around the car show.
 - g. Should it be a group decision?
 - i. Greg suggested creating a list of exhibit ideas, similar to what is done for the historical marker program.
3. Tom suggested selling coasters, mugs, plates, etc. as a way to develop retail income.
- a. One-time design charge of \$150
 - b. Start without a year to see how sales go, and then maybe add in the future to make it a commemorative.
 - c. Consider using the funds for a specific project, and then print it on the object.
 - d. Tom uses a company in Neenah for promotional items at the mill, and he has had no problems with their quality or service.
 - e. Could use these items as gifts for speakers.
 - f. Motion for Tom and Greg to lead acquisition of IHS promotional bowls in time for the 2015 Strawberry Fest, not to exceed \$700 in costs: Cliff, second by Lee. All approved.
4. Lee reported that Lyle Nauman has agreed to mow the grounds, with Lee and Cliff providing backup.

6:23 pm adjourn.

General Meeting Minutes, May 26, 2015

Call to order by President Cliff Mishler @6:30pm. There were seventeen people in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Secretary's report

- Jane Myhra reported that a name should have been spelled "Lindsay", not "Linsey".
- Motion to approve the April meeting minutes: Joanna Rheingans, second by Sharon Peterson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report

- Tom reported the lack of activity in April and the good cash position, being able to meet obligations and build the endowment. The financial status is comparable to last year.
- Joanna inquired about the caboose fund and project. Cliff said that Charlie Wasrud would be building a shelter over the caboose this summer. The initial \$10,000 was donated by Bob Stamstad, and Cliff has a source for more funds. The top and sides of the caboose will be under cover, with the ends being open.
- Motion to accept the April reports: Donna Hooker, second Sue Halverson. Motion carried.

Discussions

1. Cliff outlined the board discussion to have a bowl made up in time for Strawberry Fest (board item #3). It would have a print of the depot at a minimum order quantity of 48.
 - a. Joanna asked what size would be ordered. Sharon suggested an 8 oz bowl, since a normal bowl is about 6 oz.
2. Cliff mentioned a thank you note from the Waupaca Chamber of Commerce board for co-hosting the Business-after-5 event. Some of the business people expressed their interest in our area, and we will ask to host again next year. Instead of 3 locations, it probably will go to 2. It provided good exposure for the Iola area.
3. Pig roast review
 - a. Sharon reported the following
 - i. 50 lbs potato salad not enough, go to 60 lbs. next year
 - ii. 24 bags cole slaw should go to 25 bags
 - iii. 25 dozen buns should go to 30 dozen
 - iv. 200 lbs. of pork were OK
 - v. 20 lbs. of baked beans were not enough

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- b. Cliff expressed a concern with staffing, since no one was available to check on the grounds.
 - c. The initial wet weather was also a concern, but turnout was still good. Veterans totaled 124 of the 370 people who attended. There were 216 seats available, but they were never totally filled. People seemed to be comfortable sitting around after they ate, so there was no feeling of being rushed. Sharon thought we did well considering that it was also graduation weekend.
 - d. Other comments,
 - i. The Scouts seemed to do well selling beverages. Cliff suggested that we skip our lemonade and just offer coffee next year.
 - ii. Make the frozen leftover pork into pulled-pork sandwiches for sale at the Strawberry Fest.
 - iii. We collected \$134 in donations. It was handy to have the donation box located after the cash box, especially with the charge of \$9 per meal.
 - iv. Some people commented that the pork was dry. A suggestion was made to store it in juice next year. A couple more bottles of bar-b-queue sauce should be available next year.
 - v. Some children only took the meat and rolls.
 - vi. Many very good comments about the event.
 - vii. Need to do a better job of cleaning the dishes afterwards. Cliff mentioned that the Scouts may help with setup and teardown at the Taste of Norway in exchange for having a promotional table at the event. They may have a wash-tub set up to clean the dishes
 - viii. May also want to consider more use of hairnets and gloves for the servers.
 - e. Items #1d, #1e and #1h from the board meeting were mentioned.
4. Strawberry Fest Planning
- a. No raffle this year, but there will be one for the Taste of Norway.
 - i. Charlie Thompson suggested a 50:50 raffle. A person needs to be present to win. A different license may be needed. This will be considered for 2016.
 - b. Supplies needed,
 - i. 150 lbs. strawberries
 - ii. 10 lbs. hot dogs (some were spoiled last year and had to be sent back)
 - iii. 10 lbs. hamburger (for bar-b-queue)
 - iv. 350 bowls (Elaine)
 - v. 350 spoons (Sharon)
 - vi. 8 pails ice cream
 - vii. 10 tubs Cool Whip
 - viii. 20 dozen buns (for pork and bar-b-queue)
 - ix. 2 pans of shortcake from each person
 - c. Same table layout as Pig Roast
 - d. No door prize.
 - e. Pricing: \$4 strawberry shortcake, \$3 pork bar-b-queue, \$2 hot dog, \$1 coffee, \$1 soda or water (Scouts)
 - f. Per Greg, the promotion for the event is "Restoration of the depot, caboose and other historical projects".
 - g. If promotional bowls are available, put in a paper bowl or coffee filter to use as a liner so the ceramic bowl does not have to be washed.
 - h. The Antiques and Collectables Appraisal Fair will be part of the event, led by Joel Edler.
 - i. Barb Johnson is coordinating with 15 crafters for the event.
 - j. Doug Watson will work on the poster.
 - k. The dedication for the Robert and Stella Strand Resource Center will begin at 2 pm in the museum. A separate press release will be issued for this.
 - l. Roger Nassen will be on sanitation duty.

7:20 pm, meeting adjourned

The next meeting is planned for Monday June 29th in the Town Hall.

Lee reported that Lyle Nauman has agreed to cut the grass around the grounds.

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Following the meeting, Lee's presentation for the month dealt with the history of the Helvetia Town Hall.

- The ski hill display has been in place for five years now. Plans are for James Katy to take back what he wants, and then set up a rotating display in the building that would change every few years.
- Highlights from the Town Hall information sheet were read. Copies are attached to the minutes.
- On June 20, 2002 the building was relocated to the Historical Society Grounds, and Scott Bestul was part of the move. He discussed the event.
 - Bob Strand and Bob Crase came up with the idea.
 - The moving company was concerned with the height, so it was decided to remove the roof. Apparently tamarack was used in the construction, which is put up wet and dries very hard. It started to splinter using normal saws, so chainsaws had to be used. The ceiling was left intact, but the metal had to be cut off. The gable ends were cut off and laid on top. Reconstruction was done with rough-sawn pine.
 - The chimney was removed, but the stove was left in place.
 - The building was the width of the road, so it wasn't too wide. The length was OK too.
 - A couple of overhead wires had to be pushed up, but otherwise the move went well.
 - The walls didn't crack during the move.
- Lee reported that a time capsule was found in the attic. It contained a fall banner, plain green wallpaper, work shoes, teacher's records and a few other things.
- Jane Myhra recalls taking photos as it came through town.
- Elaine Crase remembers helping to refinish the floor.
- A \$20,000 loan guarantee was requested for the move and restoration.
- Some of the activities besides the town meetings included card parties, dancing, wedding receptions, school events, movies, etc.
- There are still staple marks on the front door from the many postings over the years. Sharon remembers helping to pull staples out.

The next monthly program will be in September.

On Saturday July 18th, Bob Stamstad will make a presentation on the space program.

On Saturday August 8th, Jessica Michna will have a special program at Iola Mills where she portrays Eleanor Roosevelt.

Minutes recorded by Secretary, John Bertelson