

Iola Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes, February, 29, 2016

The meeting was called to order 5:39 pm by Vice-President Lee Halverson. It was held in the Machine Shed.

Present: Lee Halverson, Tom Fucik, Sharon Peterson, Charlie Thompson and John Bertelson.

Absent: Cliff Mishler, Stella Strand.

Secretary's report

1. Motion to approve the January 2016 meeting minutes: Tom, second by Sharon. Approved.

Treasurer's report

1. Tom indicated not much activity for the month.
2. Lee had a few questions and comments.
 - a. What is the amount shown on the first page under "Accounts Receivable"? Tom said it was Don Faldet's donation for a marker.
 - b. What represents the amount for "retail inventory"? Tom answered that was for mugs.
 - c. On the second page, it seems like membership income is low. It appears that year-to-date business membership is down \$600 with other membership down \$300. Tom thought some of that was due to membership fees paid in December that had not been factored in for 2016. Further investigation is needed.
 - d. On the third page, utility costs are down. It was a relatively warm winter, and Charlie was able to shut off the bathroom heater in the Machine Shed without any issues. Charlie mentioned that the ceiling fans in the Machine Shed didn't have to be running at such high speeds, but Tom was not sure if reducing the speed would save much cost. Lee mentioned that the fans did not have to be running so fast in the firehouse either.
3. Motion to approve this month's report: Sharon, second by Charlie. Approved.
4. John mentioned that the financial report was not approved last month.
 - a. Motion to accept the financial report at January's meeting: Sharon, second by John. Approved.

Discussions

1. John reviewed the draft of the letter to Sen. Olsen and Rep. Petersen regarding Native American Effigy Mound protection, which was discussed with the board at the January meeting.
 - a. Motion to approve sending the letter with signature blocks for the board members to the area legislative representative: Tom, second Charlie. Approved.
2. Lee reported on the following,
 - a. A lot of people stopped at our information booth during the Winter Carnival event. Charlie sold two Lyle Mork books on area auto dealerships. Suggests having have more available for next year.
 - i. Many thanks to Charlie & Nola Thompson, Howard & Kathy Bestul and Cliff Mishler for manning the booth.
 - b. Renovation of the caboose has begun by Charlie Wasrud and his son Ben. So far the windows have been removed.
 - c. Charlie has finished the harness displays in the Machine shed.
 - d. Charlie has installed a new sink on the east end of the Machine Shed and is looking to add a small table next to it.
 - e. Chet Krause will be donating a couple file cabinets. One will be designed to hold maps.

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- f. The town hall needs a good cleaning before adding displays. Cliff and Greg will be working on a display for the Car Show. Tom suggested putting aside one Wednesday work day per month to work on displays during the warmer months.
- g. Charlie asked about our procedure for tracking artifacts. He found a label for a #63 pulley rope sheave but did not know how to find information on it. Tom said that he had donated it. It was recognized that we do not have a good system now, and one should be developed. Charlie suggested the use of our video camera to document where things are now.
- h. Jessica Michna will be in Waupaca on March 19th doing an impression of Helen Keller. She portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt for us last summer.
- i. Lee suggested repurposing the log cabin to be more of a hunting and fishing cabin like it was originally used. Charlie thought we already had enough "male-orientated" displays. Lee thought maybe the kitchen area display in the town hall could be expanded.
- j. With both Cliff and Tom out of town, Greg responded to an alarm of a "window break" last Saturday night. He found three kids who admitted to pressing their faces against the front door to look inside. No damage was found. Tom suggested adding the police to our contact list. Lyle Mork mentioned that the local police were not available all the time, so the sheriff department should be included too. This will be followed up with Cliff.

6:27 pm, motion to adjourn: Sharon, second by John. Approved.

General Meeting Minutes, February 29, 2016

6:30 pm, Call to order by Lee. There were 23 people present.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Secretary's report

- 1. Motion to approve the January meeting minutes: Sharon, second by Kathy Bestul. Approved.

Treasurer's report

- 1. Tom reported not much activity for January. There were no questions or comments.
- 2. Motion to approve the financial report: Roger Nassen, second by Sue Halverson. Approved.

Discussions

- 1. Lee covered the discussion items from the board meeting
 - a. Item 2a, Sharon suggested adding a donation box for our Winter carnival information booth next year. Kathy Bestul said she saw good interest in our organization.
 - b. Item 2h, Lee mentioned that he checking on the availability of Jessica Michna to perform Mrs. Dickens around the time of this year's Christmas Parade in December.

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- c. Item 2i, Kathy Bestul mentioned that kids really seemed to enjoy the current log cabin display to see how people lived “back then”. This will be taken into consideration before any changes are made.
2. Greg Loescher mentioned that the WDUX Home Show is scheduled for March 19th and 20th. The chamber will have two booths this year, so volunteers are appreciated.
3. Copies of the Native American Effigy Mound letter were passed out, and John discussed the background of what led up to it and why the board considered it to be important.
 - a. Motion to send the letter to our two legislative representatives: Sue Halverson, second by Doug Watson. Motion carried with no objections.
 - i. Suggestions were made to widen the distribution of the letter to the local media (Waupaca County Post, Stevens Point Journal, Portage County Gazette, Appleton Post Crescent), the State Historical Society, The Ho-Chunk Nation & other tribes, Governor Walker, other Waupaca Co. Historical Societies and the village of Iola. Greg mentioned putting it on the Wisconsin State website portal.
4. New forms for reporting IHS volunteer hours were handed out. They are designed to be handed in to John at the end of the year so he can put the data together for Tom’s annual report to the state. Demonstrating our activities as an organization is important for our continued affiliation with the State Historical Society.
5. Doug Watson reported that the Native American display continues to be in its final stage of completion. Wayne Towne is providing a biography on his family. Of the two empty cases left, one will be for hunting equipment and the other will be for “hands on” items for kids. No glass will be installed for this kids display.
 - a. Greg suggested that the dedication be set up as a Saturday event, with a possible pow-wow. Members from the Oneida Nation may be willing to help.
6. Doug mentioned that the FOSH Chili Luncheon is scheduled for March 13th from 11 am until 2 pm.
7. Bonnie Pethke offered a number of items for our collection. Her mother, Dorris Beier (nee Olson), had recently passed, and there were a number of items from Bonnie’s uncle, Kermit Olson, that may be of interest. Kermit and Dorris were children of Irvin Olson. Bonnie will let us know when she has everything assembled.

6:56 pm, motion to adjourn: Sharon, second by Sue Halverson. Approved.

Lee Halverson showed a PowerPoint presentation of interesting articles from the 1916 and 1966 Iola Heralds that we have in our collection. A video was made of the presentation and is available if any member would like to view it. Lyle Mork mentioned that the Iola Library has copies of all the Iola Heralds on microfilm if anyone would like to view them.

Minutes recorded by Secretary, John Bertelson