

Iola Historical Society

Board Meeting Minutes, May 27, 2014

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

Present: Cliff Mishler, Lyle Mork, Greg Loescher, Doug Watson, Tom Fucik and John Bertelson.

Absent: Stella Strand

Secretary's report

1. John reported one correction to the April 28, 2014 meeting minutes. There were twenty-three people in attendance for the general meeting, not twenty-one as reported.
2. Motion to approve the April 28, 2014 minutes as corrected: Greg, second by Lyle. All approved.

Treasurer's report

1. Tom indicated that the cash accounts were still in good shape, although the project balance for the Resource Center has a deficit of \$13,888 with more bills coming in.
2. The \$300 reported donation to the Lee Nelson Exhibit by Brad and Martha De Young was actually \$150 from the De Young's with the other \$150 from Jon and Suzzanne Nelson.
3. John asked if a notation could be made on the 2014 financial reports to show which expenses were actually from 2013. Tom said it was possible, but difficult. When all records are assembled for 2014, John will write a note on the final report so that future budget considerations can take this into account.
4. Motion to approve the reports for April: Lyle, second by Greg. All approved.

Motions

1. Motion by the Chair, second by Tom, to confirm the bestowing of an honorary membership upon Gene Wasrud in appreciation of his volunteer efforts on behalf of the Iola Historical Society. All approved.
2. Motion by the Chair, second by Tom, to set forth a requirement that the bestowing of honorary membership recognitions extended subsequent to May 1, 2014, be accompanied by the transfer of \$200 from the general fund to the life membership fund of the Iola Historical Society. All approved.
 - a. This will commence with the Gene Wasrud recognition.

Discussions

1. John distributed a list of proposed amendments to the IHS constitution. The intent was to see if any immediate action was needed prior to a full review of the constitution this fall. A few comments were made on the changes, but it was felt that no immediate action is needed at this time.
2. Cliff asked the board to consider an honorary membership designation procedure to better manage how they are bestowed. Someone asked how many were currently in place. Cliff will send the information to the board.
3. Cliff continued the discussion from last month for the board to set the priorities of the major development/enhancement/maintenance programs for the Society. The subject of project funding came up, and Doug asked if there was a list of organizations that award grants. Greg will ask Tammy Jo Berg if she has a list of grantors who she has worked with on I-S Chamber projects.
4. Cliff provided an update on some current promotional activities for the Society.
 - a. The Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce now provides coverage for the IHS on its website. Cliff will support our participation for three years, then the board will have to decide whether or not to continue. It's part of Cliff's goal to have the Waupaca Area Chamber provide more recognition for the Iola area.
 - b. Cliff is also sponsoring us for three years with the Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation. The focus of this group is mostly on tourism.
5. Greg outlined the new brochure being developed by the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce. The county is in the process of redoing its maps, which presently only show the Car Show for our area. Plans are to add the Historical Society, the ski hill, historical markers, etc. to the map. F&W will do the printing of approximately three years worth of brochures. The Historical Society will have an ad in the business section. The brochure is expected to come out this summer.

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6. Greg donated \$1,500 towards Iola Historical Society image signage. This will go towards making banners for the Machine Shed, the island area, etc. until more permanent signage can be installed. Doug will design the signs.
 - a. Lyle asked about getting sponsors for the buildings. He would like to pursue an agreement with Alliant Energy to donate \$10,000 in order to sponsor the Machine Shed for 10 years. In return, their name would be incorporated into the building signage. The board agreed to the initial inquiry.
 - i. Cliff would like to get a sponsor for every IHS building. The sponsor would contribute an annual donation to the Historical Society as well as work to maintain the buildings.
7. Greg will update the list of planned historical markers for the area. Current interests are for Potato Alley, the hospital/sanatorium, Schoolhouse Hill and a couple others. Plans also include that each building on the Historical Society grounds have its own historical marker. There will eventually be a numbered walking tour map of all markers, with the IHS buildings listed on a separate map.
 - a. Cliff asked the board to consider erecting pedestals for each building instead of putting markers directly on the buildings.
 - b. Tom mentioned that the depot should be enrolled in the national historical marker program.
8. Lyle asked about the necessity of creating a summary of the meeting minutes for the press. John said it really was not that much additional work and that he will check with those who are receiving the summary to see if it's beneficial.
9. Lyle mentioned the availability of a book titled "Caring for American Indian Objects". It was agreed to purchase this book for the Society.

6:30pm, motion to adjourn: Doug, second by Greg. All approved.

General Meeting Minutes, May 27, 2014

Call to order by President Cliff Mishler @6:35pm. There were seventeen people in attendance. The meeting was held in the soon-to-be completed Robert and Stella Strand Resource Center.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Secretary's report

- John reported the correction to April's minutes (see board meeting notes).
- Motion to approve the April 28, 2014 meeting minutes: Joanna Rheingans, second by Martha Cook. All approved.

Treasurer's report

- Tom mentioned the first two items from the board meeting.
- Motion to approve the April report: Roger Nassen, second by Greg Loescher. All approved.

Discussions

1. Cliff talked about the two motions that were approved as well as items 1 through 7 from the Board discussions.
 - a. Joel Edler mentioned that he is the Iola representative for the Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation. Funds are available for storefront work. There is no charge for a basic listing. Cliff mentioned that the Society is enrolled in the mid-level program. Doug still plans to add a counter to our website to see if interest increases.
2. Cliff called Joanna Rheingans up to the front, and presented her with the 2013 Docent of the year award. He reminded everyone that our 2014 season begins on May 31st.
 - a. Sharon Peterson asked for volunteers to be docents for the upcoming Saturdays, and she got a few to sign up. She would like to have four each week.
 - i. Doug Watson asked if four volunteers were really needed for every Saturday. Lyle mentioned that the building doors could be left closed, and that when a chime goes off as they are opened, a docent could go to the building to greet visitors.

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3. On Wednesday June 4th at 12:30pm and Thursday June 5th at 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm, third graders from Linda O'Day's class will be visiting the Society grounds. Cliff got a few people to sign up as guides, but he needs more. He would like to have four groups for each time period.
4. Cliff reported that on May 7th, a group of Iola-Scandinavia high school students, who are in the National Honor Society, helped with cleanup projects in the area. This is part of their semi-annual community service program.
5. Memorial Day Pig Roast review.
 - a. Cliff reported that the food ran out early. The "fixings" ran out about 45 minutes into the event, and then the meal was changed to a pork sandwich only for \$3. The pork lasted for about another 45 minutes.
 - b. Sharon Peterson mentioned that she heard only a few complaints.
 - c. Doug Watson walked down the line of people who were waiting for the full meal and apologized for running out of food. He mentioned that sandwiches were still available, and the majority of people stayed in line.
 - d. Charlie Thompson suggested submitting a newspaper ad thanking those who attended the event.
 - e. Sharon suggested not listing an end time for future events. The phrase "until food runs out" could be added instead.
 - i. She suggested that veterans sign in next year.
 - ii. She also suggested that a donation jar be put out.
 - f. Cliff asked for estimates as to how many people attended.
 - i. Sharon thought well over 300.
 - ii. Elaine Crase reported 272 plates, Sharon had 80 and Martha Cook split 15 take-out trays in half (30). This totals 382 "plates" available.
 - iii. Doug mentioned that 35 vouchers for free veteran's meals were distributed in Scandinavia and Lyle reported that 104 vouchers were given out in Iola. This represents a maximum of 139 veterans.
 - iv. Cliff reported \$2,083 in the till, which started at \$300. The net proceeds were \$1,783.
 - v. Cliff counted 54 veteran vouchers, 31 meals to those who said they were veterans (honor system), 60 paid meals for sandwich only and 200 paid full meals. This totals 345 meals served during the 1 ½ hour event.
 - g. Suggestions for next year.
 - i. Sharon wants to have more pork available, order potato salad and coleslaw through Rheinharts and find a source of good low-cost plates.
 - ii. Cliff wants to plan for 400 people. He believes that the first year of any event is usually the best for attendance, and then there is a drop off the following year. He agrees the plan should be to serve more people, but not to overdo it.
 - iii. Greg said that the announcement made during the ceremony at the Legion Park stated that the Pig Roast was for veterans and their families. Next year it should be announced that everyone is invited.
 - iv. Charlie Thompson said that a Memorial Day parade is not very common anymore, and that Iola is one of the few places that have one. Joel Edler suggested that TV stations be contacted next year to promote the parade and dinner.
 - v. Charlie Thompson mentioned that there was no good "ending" for the parade vehicles. It was suggested that the Legion help to organizing a better ending for the parade vehicles next year.
 - vi. Lyle suggested that soda should be provided next year.
 1. Sharon said that it's hard to dispense the different types of soda.
 2. Cliff reported that 250 bottles of water were used, but there still was a half pot of coffee remaining. About 30 cups of lemonade were sold with the sandwiches.
 3. Greg said that Doug at the Sentry store should be contacted to see if a deal could be made for the soda. He also went on to suggest that since the Boy Scouts were already part of the parade, maybe they could set up and run a soda stand next year. Sharon will check if they are interested.

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- vii. Sharon reported that the following quantities were used,
 - 1. 25 lbs potato salad (2 tablespoons per serving)
 - 2. 15 lbs of baked beans (one scoop per serving)
 - 3. ??? amount of pastry
 - 4. 15 dozen buns, plus more bought
 - viii. Sharon plans the following for next year.
 - 1. 200 lbs pork
 - 2. 60 lbs potato salad (Tom will check with Sysco for supply)
 - 3. 40 lbs baked beans
 - 4. 30 lbs coleslaw
 - 5. 35 doz. Buns (check with Doug at Sentry)
 - 6. Some chips
 - h. Tom thought that this event was better than the spaghetti luncheon that it replaced. He was much busier at the Millstone too. Bills for the event are still coming in, so the net result will be reported next month.
 - i. Cliff mentioned that \$5 was charged for children meals instead of \$9.
 - j. As for visitors in the buildings, Lyle reported that attendance was good in the school house and fire house. John said that only a few people went through the depot.
 - k. Lyle suggested that next year have a more military theme, and a possible honor program for area gold star families.
 - i. Cliff mentioned the need to better explain the gold star program and what it means. Lyle said that families who had members in service displayed a banner with a blue star for each person serving. If a person was killed, the blue star would be replaced with a gold star.
 - l. Greg expressed the need for more available bathrooms
 - i. Cliff thought that we need to better communicate where our bathrooms are with maps and postings. Cliff and Doug will work on this.
6. Strawberry Fest, June 22, 2014
- a. Sharon plans the following,
 - i. 20 lbs hamburger
 - ii. 20 lbs hot dogs
 - iii. 6 containers Cool Whip (Stella)
 - iv. 6 pails ice crème
 - v. 3 cases water (Cliff)
 - vi. 12 doz. hamburger buns
 - vii. 150 lbs. strawberries (Lola May)
 - viii. two 30-cup coffee makers
 - ix. bowls and napkins (Sharon)
 - x. everyone bring two cakes
 - b. Charlie mentioned that the tractors will not be there.
 - i. Doug suggested that we get a list of military vehicle owners, to invite them to display at future events.
 - c. Greg said that the meal price will remain the same as last year, as will the intention of where the funds will go. The timing of the raffle drawing is expected to be around 2:45pm.
 - d. Betty will donate her flag afghan as a raffle prize.
 - e. Joel has the appraisers scheduled.
 - f. Greg has Jerry Johnson (rug weaver) scheduled as a crafter. Lola May will contact others.

8:04 pm, motion to adjourn: Joanna Rheingans, second by Roger Nassen. All approved.

Minutes recorded by Secretary, John Bertelson