

Cass County Historical Society

1. Meeting Called to Order:

President Glenn Ellingsberg called the meeting to order with members present as follows: Glenn Ellingsberg, John Lund, Lowell Disrud, Kristen Fellows, Patrick Donegan, Tom Kenville, Jonathan Haux and Elton Solseng. Members absent as follows: Brad Nudell, Jana Tronier, Bob Clarke and Leaha Clarke. Staff Members present: Brenda Warren, Beth Jansen, Melissa Warren, Chelsea Olmsted and Brad Stedman, Finance.

2. Minutes Approved:

MOTION, passed

Elton Solseng moved and seconded by Jonathan Haux to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2020. Approved on voice vote.

3. Finance Report

Finance – Brad Stedman provided an update on reviewing the financial accounts of the Cass County Historical Society. John Lund stated Covig-19 will most likely significantly impact our income for 2020 and steps that have and could be taken to limit the impact.

MOTION, passed

Lowell Disrud moved and seconded by Elton Solseng that the finance report be accepted. Approved on voice vote.

4. Chelsea Olmsted, NDSU Intern

Chelsea discussed the poly-metal signs for 23 of our buildings which would provide some interpretation for our visitors. These will be exterior panels and it is hoped to place interior panels in the future for additional interpretation of our buildings.

Chelsea asked the board to address verbiage in our current Collections Policy that requires board approval on all collection acquisitions.

MOTION, passed.

John Lund moved, seconded by Jonathan Haux, to approve the following to replace current text in our Collections Policy, adopted November 21, 2018. Approved unanimously on a voice vote with Brad Nudell, Jana Tronier, Bob Clarke and Leaha Clarke absent.

“Potential acquisitions will be reviewed on a case by case basis, and all approved in-coming collections will be presented to the Board, at least annually, by the Collections Chair or Museum Staff. The decision to accept collections will be the responsibility of the Collections committee that meets quarterly. No Bonanzaville, USA representative may obligate the museum to accept any material or object inconsistent with this policy.”

5. Melissa Warren, Event Coordinator

Melissa provided an update on events and that all were on hold for the Month of May with the largest impact to our revenue would be the loss of our School Tours. Some Weddings have or will cancel but many have chosen to look at rescheduling to a later date. Virtual Tours may be an answer and Melissa is looking into those but cost to produce was not given nor if any cost to view is expected.

Melissa then discussed the type and size of events that are being held at Bonanzaville, with those that we cannot hold in the size of less than a 100. Event Center is too large and the Board Room is too small with Dawson Hall not being scheduled beyond 2020 due to structural and health issues.

Discussion was held on different options including partitions in the Event Center and creating space by utilizing other sections of the main museum, the old Carriage Building as a temporary replacement for Dawson Hall and Arthur Hall if some modifications would be approved including heat and bathroom facilities. No consensus was reached and future boards will need to address these options.

6. Executive Director's Report

- a. Maintenance Position is still vacant and one of our volunteers would like to apply for this position on a part time basis from 16 to 20 hours per week. The consensus of the board is not to fill the position at this time but would look at this in the future when finances improve.
- b. Harwood Players have cancelled the remainder of their performances and is working with our staff in looking at alternative show sites including Arthur Town Hall. David Lasig said they are willing to invest funds to make another site suitable for their use.
- c. Billboard on Main Avenue was discussed and due to the cost of repair and the restrictions on how those repairs are made the following motion:

Motion Passed

Patrick Donegan moved and seconded by John Lund to remove the billboard. On voice vote, the motion carried unanimously with Brad Nudell, Jana Tronier, Bob Clarke and Leah Clarke absent.

- d. Charlie Johnson, Convention and Visitors Bureau, called and is concerned about the fiscal shortfalls that Bonanzaville might face and are looking at options available to help out the non-profits in our area. One might involve loans at no interest.
- e. Experience Workers are currently on Sick Leave and will return after the crisis is over.
- f. Jonathan Haux did visit with Bob Jostad about logs for the Fargo First Home but needed to know the size, length and number needed. Brenda was to call the restoration company to get an answer.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Collections – Elton Solseng
 - i. Working on paperwork on receiving the Steiger that was accepted and on loaning the cutaway engine.
- b. Buildings – Jonathan Haux informed the group that they had frozen pipes in the bathroom for the Machine Shop, but has since had the water shut off.

8. Projects

- a. All the interactive displays are on track to be ready for opening of the village.

9. Old Business

- a. Nominating Committee
 - i. John Lund stated that they have reviewed two nominees for the open board positions and possibly a third. One candidate is Dean Poll and the other is Angela Smith with a potential of a third nominee.
 - ii. Introduction to a potential contract grant writer will follow interviews.
- b. Vote Center
 - i. Glenn Ellingsberg was unable to meet with the County about using Bonanzaville for a vote center but will do so and report back to the board at a later meeting.
- c. Dawson Hall
 - i. The overhang will be removed this spring at no cost to CCHS.
 - ii. There still was no consensus on what to do with Dawson Hall.

10. New Business

a. Facility Management

- i. Glenn Ellingsberg thanked the Board for their input on a Facility Management Plan at the Special Meeting held on February 23rd. Glenn would like to be allowed to continue to put the information together and present it to the board at the June meeting. There was no opposition to that.

b. Beth Jansen, compensation package

MOTION, passed.

John Lund moved and seconded by Lowell Disrud to set the annual salary for Beth Jansen at Fifty-Eight Thousand and No/100 (\$58,000) with benefits as currently provided to other Full Time Staff to include PTO. Passed on a unanimous voice vote with Brad Nudell, Jana Tronier, Bob Clarke and Leaha Clarke absent.

11. Annual Meeting

- a. Discussion on holding the meeting or not with no consensus at this time.

Elton Solseng moved to adjourn, **Motion Passed on a Voice Vote.**

President Ellingsberg adjourned the regular meeting at 7:00 pm.