

Bismarck Historical Society
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of March 15, 2016
Missouri River Room, Bismarck Public Library

Directors Present: Tim Atkinson, Dennis Boyd, Johnathan Campbell, Tom Hesford, Mike Heyd, Yvonne Kubis, Mike LaLonde, Ted Quanrud, Carolyn Twingley, Ann Vadnie, Kate Waldera

Directors Absent: Mary Baird, Larry Jahnke, Tom Mayer, Mike McCormack, Marilyn Snyder, Tom Stromme

Also in Attendance: Walt Bailey (Exec. Dir.); Michael Thomas (Kramer Insurance Agency);
Carolyn Hesford (Guest)

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mike LaLonde who introduced Mr. Michael J. Thomas, representing the Kramer Insurance Agency.

Review of Past Minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum at the February board meeting, the minutes of the January meeting and the proceedings of the February meeting were reviewed and upon the motion of D. Boyd, as seconded by A. Vadnie, were approved as submitted.

Review of Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented by the new Treasurer, Y. Kubis using an amended format and showing current year to date income of \$1,045.00, year to date expenses of \$607.17 resulting in current assets of \$23,291.10. The treasurer noted communication from the ND Tax Department suggesting that BHS was delinquent in paying certain taxes but which, the treasurer believes to be an error on the part of the Tax Department. She will attempt to resolve the issue. Comments on the new format were favorable and a motion to approve the report was made by C. Twingley, seconded by M. Heyd and carried.

Ongoing Business

Directors and Officers Insurance Status and Needs: Mr. Michael J. Thomas, Kramer Insurance Agency, assured the board that BHS has a million dollar coverage against general liabilities such as property damage and personal injuries resulting from Society activities. Concern has been expressed by various board members about lack of coverage for officers and directors for personal liabilities resulting from the performance of their official duties. Mr. Thomas emphasized the importance of such coverage considering the litigious nature of American society today and the devastating costs of defending against such lawsuits. He recommended a million dollar coverage at an annual cost of about \$783, or a half million dollar coverage at about \$640 dollars per year. After Mr. Thomas's departure, the board discussed the issue further, resulting in a general consensus to pursue such coverage. T. Quanrud moved that the board negotiate a Directors and Officers liability policy; Y. Kubis seconded the motion, which passed. Walt was instructed to arrange a follow-up meeting with Mr. Thomas.

Membership Committee: In the absence of Membership Chair Tom Mayer, Walt reported that the month's lone membership renewal maintained the membership at 241.

Planning, Founders Day and Annual Meeting Committee: In the absence of Committee Chair Marilyn Snyder, Walt reported that the Founders Day preparations were "on track" for the May 14th celebration. Not all the details were totally worked out and not all the event participants had totally committed, but most had and the rest were getting closer. Ann Vadnie reported that the pending trolley car display was the most recent to confirm its participation.

Newsletter Committee: Committee Chair A. Vadnie reported that the featured article of the next newsletter would be the Gannon House (the "Cairn") currently owned and recently remodeled by Deb Christianson. Tim Atkinson inquired, on behalf of BHS founding father and charter member Myron Atkinson, how many newsletters are distributed each quarter. Treasurer Kubis reported that the most recent mailing was 350.

Web Page, Social Media and E-Mail Committee: Committee Chair J. Campbell indicated that nothing of significance had occurred during the past month. Tim Atkinson reported that someone had told him that there was a really good WEB site about Bismarck History at a certain WEB site address, and when Tim visited the site, he found that it was the BHS site.

Calendar Committee: Committee Chair T. Quanrud outlined his plans for the 2017 edition of the BHS calendar. Among the goals he has set for next year's production are the following:

- Recruit a working committee to assure the various tasks get accomplished by target dates;
- At least one committee member must have "good business sense";
- Keep a balance between people, places and events as photo subjects;
- Recruit financial sponsors and product distributors; and,
- Aim for mid to late August for publication and release.

K. Waldera offered a photo of the old Carnegie Library.

M. LaLonde volunteered to serve on the requested committee.

Collections Committee: Committee Chair C. Twingley reported the receipt of some artifact from Johnathan Campbell and others. Walt said a grant request had been submitted to the State Historical Society for collection supplies.

New or Other Business: C. Twingley reported that a committee has been established to pursue the BHS cookbook noted during last month's board meeting. The committee has met and has considered several design options. They foresee the book being approximately 1/3 historic/cultural narrative, 1/3 historic photos and 1/3 recipes. It will contain about 100 8.5 by 11 inch pages. Among topics to be included are railroads, Norwegians, Swedes, English, Germans from Russia, Irish, Jewish, and Lebanese ethnic groups. They hope to publish during the autumn of 2017. They recognize the need to recruit financial sponsors.

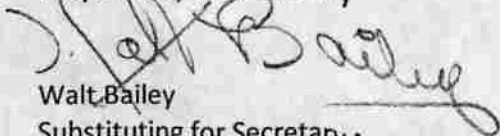
There has been some interest in revisiting the time of the BHS Board of Directors meetings. Although no clear consensus was reached and the issue was left open for further discussion, two main ideas seemed to have support. One is that a 5:00 P.M. meeting following a full day of concentrated job related pressures and tensions was not conducive to lively discussion, critical decision making, and still more concentration. One

suggestion to alleviate these conflicts was to meet earlier in the day. Another suggestion was to have the Society's Executive Committee hold a Pre-Board Meeting to work through the tougher issues and present recommendations to the full board for final action at regular board meetings. Another suggestion was to implement an active committee system to pre-discuss issues for presentation to the full board for decision making. Several members noted that they had some of the same frustrations during their working careers but since retirement, they really had no strong opinions on the timing of the board meetings although some thought 5:00 o'clock was way better than 7:00 o'clock.

T. Atkinson passed along a concern from Myron Atkinson relating to the continued loss of historic buildings and historic ambiance of the Camp Hancock area of Bismarck. The area now has only two buildings directly relating to "the birth place of Bismarck", the one surviving Camp Hancock building and the Bread of Life Church. Myron wonders what can be done to inspire Bismarck leaders to become more sensitive to the historic value of the area.

T. Quanrud moved adjournment and upon T. Atkinson's second the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by



Walt Bailey

Substituting for Secretary M. Snyder