

STEELE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Steele County History Center – Wenger Room

Members Present: Elizabeth Anselmo, Tom Bonacci, Dave Effertz, Chris Fisk, Jerry Ganfield, Dan Gorman, Samona Grubish, Keith Holman, Patty Jessop, Judy Johnson, Deb Lustig (via speaker phone), Alexandra McGuire, Andy McGuire, Jane Middlestadt, and Nancy Vaillancourt

Steele County Liaison: Rick Gnemi

Staff Present: Jennifer Thiele, MaryAnne Higgins, Amy Lowery

Staff Absent: Anne Peterson

1. Welcome and Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Jessop

a. Determination of Quorum: Middlestadt announced there is a Quorum

2. Approve Agenda and Consent Items a. – Action Item: Approve Meeting Agenda and Minutes (M/S/P) (Grubish/Gorman)

3. Finance Committee Report

- Reports included in board packet
- Reviewed Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2024
- Reviewed Profit & Loss Statements (P & L, August '24 and Previous Year Comparison, August '24 vs '23)
- Allison (from accounting firm) checking to make sure that taxes are in line to be paid
- Need to reallocate some funds from a WCO honorarium paid to SCHS speaker for program
- **a. Action Item: Approve August Financials - (M/S/P) (Ganfield – Finance Com/Effertz)**

4. Staff Reports

MaryAnne:

- Visitor log included in board packet
- Canceled Show & Tell
- Good outreach
- SCFF – good attendance and foot traffic through the VOY (despite the raindrops)
- August rentals lighter than previous months due to SCFF
- Membership Dinner: Thursday, November 14 at 6 PM; Board Members to help serve food
- Memory Café still going strong

For Anne (Jennifer):

- Anne is giving a presentation tonight at the Waseca Public Library System
- Anne has been recently interviewed on MPR
- Reminder: Orphanage Fall Celebration is coming up on Saturday, October 19; hope to see board members there; city officials to put up banner advertising event

Amy:

- Working on the Vaudeville script, has formulated a list of objects in our collection to be used for display; the planning process is going smoothly for the new exhibit

Jennifer:

- Have received some sponsorships for 2025
- Working on Christmas in the Village
- Halloween Events: Flashlight Fright Night to be held on Saturday, October 26 from 4:30 – 7:30, Nancy V and Amy are researching scary events that previously happened in Steele County; partnering with LTO for Murder Mystery Dinner on Friday, October 25 – LTO is selling the tickets; SCHS to receive proceeds from the cash bar
- Tickets still available for Holi-Day Away Bus Trip to Rochester to see the Christmas at Mayowood exhibit and the Christmas Carol. Price: \$90

5. Committee Reports

Executive – Jessop

- Executive Committee met on Monday, September 9th at 11:30
- Programs and Events: Onward and Upward: Our Rural Heritage was successful, tried new time slot – Saturday morning with a brunch, attendance: 50. Event is scheduled for 9.6.25, Saturday morning brunch, topic: The Value of Reminiscing; copy of 2025 Events and Programs handed out (working calendar)
- Capital Campaign – discussed fundraising ideas
- Administration – new membership program (implementing now, not waiting for Jan '25 rollout) and follow-up from items discussed in August

Governance – Lustig

- Looking for new board members, email to be sent by Deb Lustig

Exhibits – Lowery

- Working on Vaudeville script, plan is for more hands-on activities
- Smith exhibit to stay up until 10.6
- Military convoy coming through on 10.6

Education & Programming – Thiele for Vaillancourt

- Working on 2025 event and program calendar, looking at different themes for '25 events

Marketing - Thiele

- No report

Acquisition & Collections - Ganfield

- No meeting held in August due to SCFF; as such, have some catch up to do
- Cleaned out some items from the Town Hall, General Store, and Farm and Machinery Building
- Next meeting is 9.28

Service Bay Capital Campaign – Thiele

- Planning for a different fundraiser event
- Will speak to Bob Seykora about possible use of space in other VOY buildings for storage

Events – Lustig

- Looking for board members to volunteer at all events (see MaryAnne if interested)

Building and Maintenance – Ganfield

- Looking at replacing boards in front of the Post Office
- Replacement of doors on Carriage House (2 large, 2 small)

Tech/IT – Effertz/Gorman

- No update per Dave

6. Old Business - None**7. New Business****a. November meeting**

Membership Dinner (awards) on 11.14.24 at 6 PM in the Wenger Room. Catered by Superior Foods. Cost \$20. Meeting is different from that of the Annual Meeting which has more of a focus on finances (annual report and budget to be presented). To be held on 3.20.25. This meeting is an extension of the monthly board meeting.

b. Board Training: Board Recruitment – document handed out along with Board Matrix Worksheet

Need to determine number of new board members required, new board member with township residence? Names of potential new recruits needed before November

8. Open Discussion – None**9. Meeting Adjourned @ 7:10 PM**

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2024 at 6 pm at the History Center.

Respectfully Submitted
Jane Middlestadt, Secretary