



## Board Meeting at Loken's Inn Meeting Room February 6, 2023

**Call to order:** President Terri Benson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members Nancy Snyder, Jack O'Donnell, Jackie Becker, and Sally Ryman were also present. RAHS member Kaye Bernard was also present. Kari Meyer and Anne Spartz were unable to attend.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the January 7 board meeting were emailed prior to the meeting. Moved by Nancy, seconded by Jack, to approve the January minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jack and Terri were able to get better interest rates for several of the RAHS accounts as noted below. Jack reported the following balances as of January 31, 2023:

- Checking (.25%) – \$11,044.46 (2/6/23 balance) Expenditures for last month included a higher-than-normal gas bill, print cartridges, phone bill, and \$5.00 sales tax filing. Donations were \$110 and \$300. He deposited \$140 today, which included an elk antler and a few other items that were auctioned (\$120) and a donation.
- Savings (log cabin) – This account has been closed, and the remaining \$1,030.23 from was transferred to the checking account and is included in that balance.
- Money Market (4%) – \$13,532.06
- CD (12 month@ 4.25%) - \$51,000
- Tax information – A high level year-end report that Jen Hengel and Jack put together was reviewed. It includes income and expenses for 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. Our accountants are working on tax filing requirements. Since we received more than \$50,000 in grants and donations in 2022, it requires a more extensive filing form.

Moved by Jackie, seconded by Sally, to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried.

### Meeting Discussion

1. Christmas decorations were changed out with a new display of barbershop and hairdresser artifacts. The new display is a work in progress, and local hair stylists will be invited to view it when it's complete.
2. Elk antler – It was auctioned with several other items that Jack had for a total of \$120.00.
3. Dr. Droivold picture – Anne provided a picture that we've placed by the books.
4. Electrical improvements in the library and light switch in museum. A volunteer has estimated it will cost \$300 for the material to move the security system outlet, and put the security system display on a shelf below the system boxes on the west wall in the library; add electrical outlets along the north wall above the bookcase height; and put a light switch in the middle museum room. Currently the lights are controlled by flipping a circuit breaker. The board reviewed pictures of these items. Moved by Sally, seconded by Nancy, to approve purchasing the supplies for Jim and Jack O'Donnell to make these changes by the end of March. Motion carried.
5. Repair and Preserve Fundraiser
  - Image concept for donation "track" sign – Sally and Nancy presented a concept for a sign to showcase the growth of donations to our \$150,000 fundraiser. Jack noted it should be painted on MDO boards, which are smooth outdoor sign boards. Terri has a 4'x4' one and we could buy a 4' x 8' one. To create a

4' side by 12' tall sign for the exterior east wall. Connaughty's might cut train out of metal that could be moved up the track as donations come in. Moved by Terri, seconded by Jackie, to accept the concept and move forward with finding the artists for the track and train and purchase the materials. Motion carried.

- Second mailing to past donors – A draft letter and fact sheet were distributed. Board members were asked to review it, have one or two others review it, and send Sally suggestions for the letter by end of the week. Meet on Thursday, February 16, 5:30 at the depot.
- Expanding list of potential donors – A draft letter for potential donors was also presented. Kaye asked if people asking for help with genealogy are included in our mailing list, and Terri said some are on the mailing list but not all of them. Businesses are another group that should be approached for donations. Sally suggested asking the banks to match donations during a future month. Jack suggested searching for other grant opportunities. In response to Jack's suggestion, it was agreed that Sally will apply for a MiEnergy Operation Round Up grant for electrical update and modifying the restrooms for accessibility; the application is due by Wednesday, February 15. It was agreed that we should develop calendar for our communications plan promoting.

#### 6. RAHS in the community

- Sign proposal – Terri discovered that the concept for a sign on the MPE building is expensive, and we should explore alternatives. We will discuss getting historic pictures out in businesses at the next meeting.
- Social media messaging, including Facebook posts and increase likes and interaction/shares will be discussed at the next meeting as part of developing a communication calendar.
- Email donors – history stories once a month
- Michelle Ekern will be speaking about "Beginners Genetic Genealogy & Family Treebuilding" at 7:00 p.m. on March 6 following the board meeting. She is working on two cases involving women who abandoned their children and disappeared in the 1920s. Spread the word about Michelle's presentation. We'll create a Facebook post and poster with more information.

Also noted: As a follow up from a previous meeting, Nancy Snyder brought in an article about the origination of the students taking over the movie theater. This information will be incorporated into the Dr. Droivold information on the subject.

Jackie Becker brought in some newspapers with articles related to the depot and a picture of students at a bible school. They will be catalogued and filed appropriately if we don't already have copies.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Jack, seconded Sally, to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Motion carried.

#### **Future Meeting Topics**

March: t-shirt sales; speaker, Michelle Ekern; board member renewals (Terri and Jack) & elections

April: Jailhouse review of timeline with Eagle Scout candidates; school house displays (interior)

May: Rushford Days ideas (hobo lunch)

**Next meeting** – March 6 at Loken's at 6:00 p.m.