

# **MANDAN Historical Society**



## **Board of Directors Meeting**

### **Heritage Plaza**

**411 West Main St  
Mandan ND 58554**

**Thursday, February 11, 2010**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Bob Porter, Kathy Spilman, Melanie Bernier, Bill Engelter, Mary Harris, Sharon Huettl, Eldo Johnson, Dave Kroll

**Absent:** Bryen Birkholz, Bill Schott, Walt Russell

Meeting was called to order by VP Dave Kroll at 7:00 p.m.

### **Secretary's Report:**

January 29, 2010 meeting minutes approved with one amendment, the discussion of moving the monthly meeting from the fourth to the first Thursday of the month. Motion by Dave Kroll, seconded by Melanie Bernier, all in favor.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Bill Engelter-same as previous meeting, no change in report

### **Old Business:**

### **Fire Truck Committee:**

Dave Kroll reported that he had another conversation with owner Bernie Long in California. Mr. Long is willing to sell truck for \$5500. Kathy Spilman noted that she does feel it is valued above \$1000. It was decided that Dave would stay in touch with Mr. Long and explore the possibilities. So far, there had been one newspaper article about the truck and one update in the paper. It was decided that before any commitment is made, the public will be given the opportunity to participate in the possible purchase and restoration of the fire truck by means of another public announcement article in the Mandan paper. Bob Porter did locate old photos showing fire trucks in Mandan circa 1930's. It was determined none of the trucks in the photos would be the same truck as the one in California. We will continue to research the archives to find out more info

about the truck. We will contact Beck's museum to see if they can assist in determining the value of the truck.

**Digital Horizon Grant:**

Kathy reported that the grant through Digital Horizon for the digitizing and scanning of photos is still available with a grant deadline of April 1, 2010. The company will scan up to 100 photos and digitize them at 600 pixels in exchange for rights to display them in their digital database. A release of permission would be required. Discussion ensued that there is no hurry as the grant is most likely available again. It was generally agreed that digitizing the old photos would be a good safeguard, but to pick and choose which ones to release, if at all. Bill felt some photos should be kept for use by the MHSO purposes and not put into the public domain. The discussion was tabled and will be revisited at a later date. It was also noted that this grant does not provide for archival materials as previously thought, but that there may be a different grant available for those purposes. Kathy will keep the Board advised as she gets information.

**Community Events:**

Bill Engelter reported that Del Wetsch with the MPO approached him to ask if the MHSO would like to collaborate in providing funds to bring a Teddy Roosevelt character actor to Mandan for the Fourth of July festivities. The actor's name is Gilbert Young. Currently, MHSO has about \$500 in grant funds from the MPO's Visitor's Fund with which to promote Mandan through a community event. It was decided that the funds would be used to kick in \$100 for the actor and the remainder would go to subsidizing additional community events with the actor—a possible book-signing at the Beanery and/or a possible tea at Tara on the porch with TR.

It was decided MHSO will apply for a second Visitor's Fund grant of \$500 to attempt to bring Ron Erhardt to Mandan for an event in August. Kathy suggested the event be a simulation of the popular "Actor's Studio" in which a famous person is interviewed. Kathy suggested a set be created in the auditorium at MHS, and tickets be sold for the "interview."

**New Business:**

**Annual website report:**

Kathy reported that in 2009, there were 29, 000 unique hits on the website. Top 5 pages in order of popularity are:

1. Welcome
2. Events
3. Libby Custer
4. George Custer
5. Ron Erhardt

**Other Business:**

- A bill for \$14 in postage for membership dues was submitted by Sharon Huettl. Bill Engelter wrote her a check.
- Tom Hanson has contacted Al Fitterer, MHS Class President, 1960, to let him know MHSO will display artifacts from the graduating class of 1960 during the summer events, such as the All-Class Reunion.
- It should be noted that MHSO is shifting their monthly meetings from the third Thursday of the month to the first Thursday of the month to give more time for planning events and so there is not such a long gap between the annual meeting and the first meeting in January. We do not meet towards the end of December due to Christmas.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 7 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. by Dave Kroll

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Bernier  
MHSO Secretary