

MANDAN Historical Society



Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday April 18, 2018

Location: Keitu Engineers & Consultants Conference Room at 1403 27th St NW, Mandan

Present: President Robert Porter, Vice President Walt Russell, Secretary Kathye Spilman, MHSoc Director Bob Barr

Absent: Treasurer William Engelter, two vacant Directors

Meeting called to order by President Porter at 5:00 p.m. Quorum was present.

Officers' Reports

Secretary's Report: Minutes from January 2018 meeting were presented. Motion to approve was made, seconded and approved via voice vote with one modification and one typo correction.

Treasurer's Report: No report available. No bills presented for payment. Secretary Spilman reported that one payment to Bob Barr was made to reimburse him for a previously authorized purchase through the Pottery Collectors' grant.

Committee Reports

Buildings & Grounds Committee: As previously reported via a series of eMails to the Board Members, funds to construct space at the ND State Railroad Museum in Mandan has been secured from the Tostiven Family. Patricia Tostiven has offered a large enough donation to fund a larger 20 x 30 ft space including contractor labor to rough erect the building. Bill Engelter had approached their Directors with the proposal in late January, but the effort stalled with a tie vote 3 to 3 on their part to proceed. MHSoc Board members offered to attend their meeting(s) to formally present the proposal and answer questions. While the MHSoc members see the proposal as a win-win for both organizations, freeing up the current space granted by the RR Museum and used by MHSoc for displays, and an opportunity for both organizations to develop additional space jointly with a lower construction cost, the perception is not universally shared.

In the past, concern has been expressed that MHSoc members were not meeting their obligation to assist operating the Museum. It may not be apparent when members who belong to both organizations are working there on behalf of the MHSoc. Prior discussions included suggestions of wearing an easily identifiable but not distracting article of distinctive clothing like a cap or vest. Several examples of caps were inspected. A consensus could not be reached on an article of clothing. However, several options of a distinctive patch incorporating the Society's Blue Thunder logo were explored.



A motion was made, seconded & approved via voice vote to pursue a horizontal design patch, black on white, with “MaNDan Historical Society” to be applied to the wearer’s preferred cap or article of clothing.

Bill Engelter, board member of both organizations, was not present at the meeting to update the attendees. The Railroad Museum’s annual meeting is in late May.

Communication & Public Relations Committee: Kathy reported she provided background information to the Mandan News reporter for feature articles on three homes on the Heritage Home Tour. The first of two expected articles, featuring the McGillic Home, was published by both local papers this past week. Multiple contacts have occurred via email and/or calls. She will continue to follow-up with those who have called. She also reported that a graphics firm for the new Bennigan’s restaurant contacted her for historic “sports” photographs and now working with the SHSND to provide options. A journalist from an East Coast internet publication contacted her for photos of Era Bell Thompson for an article for Black History Month. All the photo rights for the Society’s collection on her are owned by the SHSND, so Kathy referred them to Sharon Silengo, the State’s photo archivist. The local flood district also contacted her for access to historical flood photos in the city to develop background presentation to offer during upcoming public hearings on proposed revisions to the existing levee system. Per established policy, she included prices for the service. No subsequent contact has occurred.

Donations & Acquisitions Committee: Kathy reported the high quality scanned copy of the booklet “Mantani,” provided by Pat Tostevin, is posted for non-commercial use on the website.

Endowment Committee: Nothing new to report.

Grant Committee: Nothing to report.

Nomination Committee: President Porter reported that as provided for by the Society’s bylaws, he will appoint Patricia Tostevin to serve on of the two vacant Director positions, which she has accepted. One additional vacancy remains. Discussion turned to two another suggested candidates for the position, both invited tonight but neither gentlemen in attendance.

Membership Committee: No further action on an annual meeting / City Charter Day event. Further action tabled until after the summer season at the ND RR Museum.

Old Business

Pottery Grant: Bob Barr reports his recent purchases which closes out the money from the most recent grant. A thank you letter documenting the purchased items with the funds has been sent to the ND Pottery Collectors Society, plus a letter requesting additional grant money.

BNSF Railroad Bridge Project: Bob Porter and Kathye Spilman attended the historical consultation meeting held in January with the BNSF railroad to replace the current historic Missouri River rail bridge. Kathye also secured a formal invitation for Bill Engelter as President of the ND Railroad Museum Foundation, who also attended. A citizen's group attended with the desire to repurpose the existing bridge as a community space/walking path river crossing. (assuming BNSF does not defer the decision to replace it) is attempting to gather support. The City of Mandan took a formal position of not wanting to retain both bridges over flooding concerns. The City of Bismarck's representative was silent on their city's position during the meeting. The US Army Corps of Engineers' representative indicated their agency was absolutely against keeping both a new and the existing bridge remaining over river scour and flow pattern concerns. This information has been previously sent to members of the Board.

Consistent with instructions from subsequent discussions, Kathye sent an eMail to the consultant that the MHSoc was not taking a formal position on which replacement alternative to pursue, but if the existing bridge was to be removed, several mitigation measures were suggested including development of 3 possibly 4 short videos on (a) history of the existing's bridge, its design and construction; (b) documentation of the replacement bridge location selection, design and construction; (c) existing's bridge influence on Mandan's history, and likely the construction of the current's bridge on Bismarck's history. Both at the meeting and in the correspondence, disappointment was expressed on poor quality of the historical record prepared by its contractor, and the complete absence of references to Mandan. That gap would expect to be addressed during the mitigation process.

New Business

Westerners requested the MHSoc present a program in June 2018. Kathye will present part of the Downtown Mandan Historical District presentation and hold the remainder for a future program.

Next Meeting: Due to the pending issue for a joint project with the ND State Railroad Museum, the next Directors' meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 5 p.m. at the Conference Room at Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc.

Motion to adjourn at 6:22 p.m. made, seconded and approved via voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathye Spilman
Secretary

Approved: TBD