

# Missoula Board of Trustees

## for the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula

Minutes, June 20, 2011

Attending: Michael Fussell, Chair; Addrien Marx; John Rimel, Alternate; Don Spritzer, Alternate; Robert M. Brown, Executive Director.

Guests: Diane Braach, Ron Cox, Cheryl Thompson, Nancy Lambert, Ed Reilly.

Order: Fussell called the meeting to order at 11:20 p.m. at the Filling Station, in Seeley Lake. Fussell thanked the people at Seeley Lake for hosting the meeting.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: There was none.

Approval of Minutes: Marx moved and Fussell seconded approval of the minutes of the May 16 Trustee Meeting; motion passed.

Correspondence: Brown noted the letter in the Director's Report from the Montana Community Foundation returning the Friends endowment funds. Brown also noted that he had just received a letter from the American Association for State and Local History informing the Museum that they had won an Award of Merit for the 1910 Fire exhibit, to be presented at the AASLH annual meeting in Richmond, Virginia, in September, Brown hopes to attend.

Executive Director's Report: Brown reviewed his report: attendance was down, but last year was the first year of the 1910 Fire exhibit; attendance should set a record this year; before Curator Bain left, he had completed the final panels for the permanent exhibit, which are now in the hands of Clark Design for fabrication; no progress was reported on the new tracks for the Trolley Barn or Library Car although Michael Seitz, of the Western Montana Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society says that they may be able to help; with Brown's injury to his knee and volunteer Dale Johnson's recent health problems, help is needed on grounds mowing and weed whacking; and Brown thanked Fussell for attending the budget meeting with the county commissioners on June 7.

### Old Business:

- Brown reported that the T-1 projects are coming along: the lift should be done this week, the courtroom bench is being constructed, painting is well underway, the floor and ceiling will be done after the bench is finished, and all projects should be done by the end of the month, when most of the money runs out.
- The Executive Director's Performance Evaluation Form was not completed as Fussell waits for Friends President Johnson's input; she has been out of town.
- There was discussion about the status of the Trustee Board and the general consensus was that the current structure works well. Brown will talk with Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer more about the situation.

New Business:

- Board members present completed their Ethics and Disclosure Statements.
- With the removal of the clause regarding selling Building T-1 (a joke on Brown's part), and with corrections in grammar noted, Spritzer moved to accept the 2012 Operating Plan, Marx seconded, motion carried.
- Brown reviewed the situation with Jason Bain's resignation. Nicole Webb will start as Interim Curator on June 27, the posting for the position will close on July 20, and then the interview process will begin. Brown hopes to have a new Curator by the end of summer.
- Brown spoke of the need to update the Museum's Research Policy. Before his departure, Bain had drafted a new policy that Brown will review and present at the next Board meeting.
- Cox wanted to know if an interested Seeley Lake High School student could get some information about being a museum curator; Brown suggested the student call Webb later in July, after she is established.
- Cox wanted to know how they could get some help with obtaining National Historic Register information; Brown suggested he contact Philip Maechling, Missoula's Historic Preservation Officer, who does those in the county.
- Cox also wanted help in obtaining information on museum lighting; Fussell volunteered to help.
- Thompson wanted to know where a large photographic collection about Seeley Lake could be donated; Brown recommended the Mansfield Archives at The University of Montana, since the Historical Museum's resources for storage are limited and reserved largely for Fort Missoula photographs.

Comments: Rimel commented that Jeff Sholty has left Montana and will not be able to help with the railroad tracks at the Museum, but he has another possible lead.

Claims: Claims to the *Missoulian* for \$2,760.76 for advertising, and \$487.60 to Brown for travel to the Museums Association of Montana's Board meeting in Sidney were approved.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting will be on July 18, at noon, in Building T-1 at Fort Missoula.

Fussell adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Cox gave the group an historical lecture and short tour of downtown Seeley Lake, it was very informative and interesting. The Board thanks Mr. Cox for his fine presentation.

Drafted 6/20/11, Robert M. Brown