

CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES-Approved
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Monday, January 21, 2019 @9:00 A.M.

The monthly meeting of the Clay County Historical Society was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Dan Christopherson. Members present were: Dan Christopherson, Gloria Hensley, Joni Freidel, Erin Burrow, Ruth Bylander, Maxine Johnson, Marvin Walz, Judy Sullivan, Art Rusch, Barb Campbell, Kevin Jacobson, Jim Stone; also present was Wess Pravecek, Executive Director for the Austin-Whittemore House. Members absent were Lisa Johnson.

The agenda was reviewed and accepted, with one addition, by motion of Gloria Hensley; seconded by Barb Campbell; motion passed. The minutes were passed, with one spelling correction, by motion of Maxine Johnson; seconded by Jim Stone; motion passed. The treasurer's report for November and December was sent to the board by Joni Freidel. A complete report will be available for perusal in the office. The report was accepted by motion of Gloria Hensley; second by Jim Stone; motion passed.

Wess Pravecek, Executive Director Report:

- The Fallen Heroes students will begin using AW House resources for research again this year. Wess will go speak to the class at USD on January 23.
- It is time to turn in our information for the VCDC Visitors Guide. As members of the Chamber, we will receive one free listing. The cost for a 1/8 page ad is \$190. It was agreed to move forward with the ad.
- The VCDC newsletter (now titled The VERB) is requesting stories from Chamber members. Wess plans to submit a piece about the completion of the expansion project.
- The new season of Fireball Run is completed and was released on January 15 on Amazon Prime. The VCDC hosted a special early showing on January 7. Wess has sent a message to the production company asking about the feasibility of hosting a public showing of the episode.
- Wess has plans to add more emphasis on local businesses, past and present, to the "bridal room" upstairs.
- Wess reported that aprons sales went well over the holidays, and mentioned that the Whittemore family bought five.

OLD BUSINESS:

a) Bathroom Addition RECAP: The estimated total for completing the expansion project is \$26,000. Wess has reckoned we received \$13,385 in donations toward the project. A final reckoning will still need to be completed. Jim also mentioned that the plumbing has passed final inspection.

b) Tour of Homes RECAP: Gloria Hensley said the committee was pleased with the turn out for the event. The total number of ticket sales was down from last year, but not unsuccessful. Three houses have already confirmed for December 2019: Joni Freidel, Jan and Jerry Petersen, and Curt and Carolyn Robinson.

c) Sweets & Treats RECAP: The board of directors will not be asked to contribute treats for the event next year, as there is typically more than can be sold on the day. Extras did not go to waste, and all were donated to excellent causes.

d) Laptop Computer: Wess plans to talk with Dakota PC Warehouse about the possibility of a deal, in consideration of our status as a non-profit.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Security System: The House is still utilizing the original security system installed in the 1970s. There has been increase in the system being “tripped” recently, much of which seems to be attributed to wildlife movement outside the house. Dan C. asked if someone from the board would look into installing a more modern system (options, cost and feasibility.) Kevin Jacobson agreed to look into, after receiving more information from Dan. Any system will also need to connect to Vermillion’s Police Department.

b) Mary Chilton DAR Foundation: Brenda Girard Dahlin, a member of the Sioux Falls DAR, contacted the board to share information about the Mary Chilton Foundation and how there may be grants worth applying for, especially considering our historic preservation work. Ruth Bylander will look into it.

c) Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the CCHS is planned for Thursday, April 18. Three events will happen that evening: the official opening of the expansion project by Mayor Jack Powell, the Annual Meeting of Members, and Joe Hoffman will lead his “Antiques Roadshow” appraisal program. There was much discussion about starting time and schedule for the evening. Maxine Johnson moved that Wess create a schedule and the board will accept her plan. The motion was seconded by Joni F. The motion passed.

d) Upstairs Bathroom: Wess has requested that, in view of the new facilities available on the ground floor, the smaller of the two upstairs bathrooms be converted into much needed storage space. A motion was put forward by Maxine Johnson and seconded by Barb Campbell, to remove the fixtures from the room and create more space. The motion passed.

e) Executive Session: A motion was made to move into executive session for personnel discussion. The motion passed. The board came out of executive session at 10:29am. Art Rusch moved to raise the hourly wage of Executive Director, Wess Pravecek, to \$13 an hour effective January 1, 2019. Seconded by Gloria Hensley. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Comments: Jim Stone, who also sits on the board of the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission, shared that his project “Rediscovering the Barns of Clay County, SD” was posted on the CCHP website, as publication was proving too expensive. Since that time, several state archives have requested hard copies. A few have now been printed and Jim presented one to the CCHS for use at the Austin-Whittemore House. The board by acclamation has enthusiastically accepted.

Marvin Walz moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned in due form by the president.

The next regular business meeting will be held Monday, February 18 at 9:00 am.

Submitted by
Erin Burrow
Recording Secretary