

**Dodge County Historical Society
Official Minutes
September 21, 2017**

Meeting called to order – 6:30 p.m. at the museum in Mantorville

Secretary pro tem – Linda Jerviss

Board members present – Coy Borgstrom, Scott French, Phil Haukom, Dave Dubbels, Linda Jerviss, Mike Haugen

Board members absent – Jim Checkel, Lois Hancock, Greg Nelson

Others present – Director Don Westfall, Barb Gilliland, Sandy Gochnauer, Barbara Loquai, Mary Ann Bucher

Additions to Agenda

New Business:

- Budget preparation
- Keys for volunteers
- Phone voicemail
- Dale Morris memorial received from Equity Bank

Dave moved to approve additions to the budget, second by Phil.

REPORTS

Museum report

Don talked to the highlights of his written Director's Report, including his meeting with Duke Harbaugh, head of Facilities at the Dodge County Courthouse. Duke has offered space in the new courthouse building lobby for a WWI display and will provide a tensile barrier to protect it. He has also offered to provide a custom-made glass case for ongoing, rotating Historical Society displays in the building.

Don has been looking into getting one or two workers through the federal Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). His contact for this program is Shirley Ackerman, and he will be hearing from her tomorrow, September 22. Along with performing other administrative duties, SCSEP workers would enable the museum to be open more hours. (Barb Loquai commented that it would be a good idea to have the museum open on weekends, as from her experience at the Welcome Center, those are the days when the most visitors come to town.)

Dave moved that we approve Don to hire SCSEP workers, second by Mike. Approved unanimously.

In the future Don will give the Director's Report in lieu of the Museum Report, and will also report on correspondence received. A motion to this effect was made by Dave, second by Phil. Approved unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Motion made by Phil, second by Scott to accept the Secretary's Report. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Motion made by Scott, second by Phil to accept the Treasurer's Report. Approved unanimously.

Motion made by Scott, second by Mike to pay the bills, as listed by the Treasurer. Approved unanimously.

Grants Report

Linda Jerviss reported that the application for the large Legacy grant for the Wasioja Civil War Recruiting Station was submitted September 15. Don reported that the application for a grant for museum lighting has been placed on hold. There was discussion about the status of the County's grant for new roofing for the museum building. Barb Loquai told how the new roof for the Log Cabin in Mantorville was accomplished.

Displays/Events

Barb Gilliland reported on the coming WWI displays and events which are being held in conjunction with the Dodge Center Library. September 22 is the date for a WWI era music event at Anadine's in Dodge Center. WWI music will be showcased between 7 and 8 p.m.

October 8 is the date for the Cemetery Tour & Remembrance event at the Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center. Barb reported that 25 descendants of WWI veterans have been contacted to offer them the opportunity to talk about their ancestor at the gravesite. Flags are being set at each WWI veteran's grave, and a bagpiper will play while strolling the cemetery. A 2:00 program involving the American Legion and the Boy Scouts is planned. Don has placed press releases in area newspapers & other local media.

Barb reported that on Armistice Day, November 11, there will be a display at the Community Center in Dodge Center of 12 authentic vintage WWI propaganda posters, plus the photo boards of Dodge County WWI soldiers. This display will be left up through November 12. Don will again place press releases to advertise this event.

Barb has started on the Wasioja Christmas event which will be held Saturday, December 16 at the old Baptist Church in Wasioja at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Barb from Faith Lutheran in Dodge Center will give the homily, and Nadine from Anadine's in Dodge Center will play piano. Barb recommended that she call Rick Papenfuss to wash the north wall of the exterior of the church building. Coy volunteered that instead he and Greg Nelson will clean the wall.

OLD BUSINESS

Building & Grounds

There was no report from the Building & Grounds Committee. The committee will meet and have a report for the next DCHS monthly meeting.

Basement Water Issue – Tabled

Prairie restoration on south bank

Mary Ann raised the question if we had gone to the City of Mantorville to discuss native plants & grasses on the south bank. It was decided that this was not required. This topic was then tabled until the next meeting.

Kasson Stone Water Tower

Don reported that he had met with Kasson City Administrator Coleman and that she remains firm in her decision to terminate the agreement between the City and the DCHS as to the oversight of the water tower and its park. Coy commented that it was his belief that the DCHS needs to remain involved with the water tower and that the legal agreement needs to remain in place. Scott moved that the agreement between the City and the DCHS remain in place as is, second by Mike. Approved unanimously.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Sandy Gochnauer reported that \$2,000 has already been received from sponsors of the event and that posters have been made and put up. Don is working on media coverage, including possible radio spots. Sandy reported that expenses for the event will be \$2,160, compared with last year's total of \$2,334.69.

NEW BUSINESS

Establishment of grants committee

Mike recommended that we establish a grants committee. Discussion followed regarding the benefits of having a committee look into needs and coordinate and prioritize grant applications. It was decided that rather than form a committee, we would have our director fill this role. In the future, all grant discussion and activities will be coordinated by Don.

WWI Poster Exhibition at Dodge Center Community Center

This topic was addressed under Displays/Events.

Involvement of DCHS with other Dodge County towns

Discussion was held how to better involve more of Dodge County in the DCHS, and also increase our activities in these areas. Don noted that he will be attending meetings of local government entities, service clubs, etc to introduce himself and foster more interest in our organization. Moving the Annual

Meeting to other areas was again discussed.

Budget

This coming Monday Don & Mike will finalize the 2018 budget, which Don will present to the County Board in the near future.

Keys for volunteers

Scott introduced the topic of volunteers having possession of DCHS building keys. After discussion, Dave moved to allow volunteers to have keys to the buildings, per the discretion of the director. Second by Mike. Approved by majority; dissent by Scott.

Phone

Scott brought up the need to have the museum messages go to our director. Don will work with the phone company to get this accomplished.

Dale Morris memorial money

Scott reported that a check for \$1,000 was received from Equity Bank in Claremont, in honor of Karen Morris' retirement from that business. The money is to go to the fund for the agricultural building that Dale had long wished for. A thank-you card to the bank was signed by members present. Linda will take care of writing the note and sending it.

The next meeting is October 19 at the museum at 6:30 p.m.

Dave moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Phil. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Jerviss, secretary pro tem