

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Library Commons, MacKay Building
Pierre, South Dakota
September 13, 2024**

Call to Order:

The meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice President John Fowler in the Library Commons of the MacKay Building, Pierre, South Dakota. A quorum was present.

Board members present in the Library Commons:

John Fowler, Jon Lauck, Bill Pearson, and Francis Whitebird

Board members present via TEAMS Conference Call:

Lura Roti, Michelle Dennis, Brian Sandvig, Robert Kolbe, David Grettler, and David Patterson

Board members absent:

Tom Hurlbert

State Historical Society Staff Present:

Benjamin Jones, Jamie Hageman, Liz Almlie, David Grabitske, Kevin Larsen, Corey Christianson, Catherine Forsch and Amanda Van Balen- SD Historical Society Foundation

State Historical Society Staff Present via TEAMS Conference Call:

Chelle Somsen, Dustin Llyod, Dedra Birzer, Katy Schmidt, Cassie Vogt

Others Present in the Library Commons:

Bob Mercer, Dennis and Sherry Povondra

Others Present via TEAMS Conference Call:

SDPB

Welcome and Announcements:

Vice President John Fowler led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a welcome to the members of the board, staff of the Historical Society and guests.

Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made by Lauck to adopt the agenda with an amendment of adding the membership gift incentive to new business, Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Board Minutes:

The July 12, 2024, minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting were mailed and posted digitally for board members before the meeting. **Lauck made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Pearson seconded motion.** The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: (SDCL 1-25-1):

There was none.

State and Review Board:

At 9:05 a.m. the board began the duties of the State Review Board to evaluate the National Register Nominations presented by the State Historic Preservation Office staff.

Presented by Liz Almlie

- **Beseda Hall and Sokol Park, Tabor, Bon Homme County:** The nomination is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for significance in Social History, Performing Arts, Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. Its level of significance is statewide. After discussion, a **motion was made by Lauck and seconded by Pearson to approve the nomination.** The motion carried unanimously.

The State and Review Board completed their evaluation at 9:22 a.m.

Reports (No Action Needed):

- **Administration: Benjamin Jones, State Historian and State Historical Society Director**
Jones reported on the Historic Preservation Officer search, Renovation, Deadwood Grant Subcommittee, the annual history conference, and the 100th Legislative Session. Jones highlighted staff updates.
- **Archaeology: Cassie Vogt, State Archaeologist**
Vogt reported on research, GIS requests, NAGPRA and Burial Activities, Grants, Outreach, Repository and Archives, Mining Reviews and State Land Permits, staffing and the Plains Anthropological Conference. Vogt highlighted ARC's collaboration with West River History Conference for the 2025 conference updates and the Jefferson Peace Medal consultation.
- **Archives: Chelle Somsen, State Archivist**

Somsen reported on digitization projects, outreach, Archives month, personnel, and quarterly statistics. Somsen highlighted the Doane Robinson digitization collection, Archives Month, and position updates.

- **Historical Society Foundation: Catherine Forsch, CEO**
Forsch reported on a new board member, the Oral History Project, Giving Tuesday, Press Publications, and Upcoming Meetings/Events. Forsch highlighted staff updates, a new membership and donor platform and website, and the Doane Robinson Collection.
- **Museum: David Grabitske, Assistant Society Director**
Grabitske reported education, exhibitions, and collections. Grabitske highlighted an update on the horse effigy loan and scan, collection additions, and the move back to the Cultural Heritage Center.
- **Preservation: Ben Jones, Interim State Historic Preservation Officer & Director of Historic Preservation, and Liz Almlie**
Dietmeier reported on staff updates, National Register and National Historic Landmark Listings, budget items, contract projects, education and outreach projects, and City of Deadwood items. Almlie highlighted National Register Nomination updates and contracts.
- **Research & Publishing: Dedra McDonald-Birzer Editor-in-Chief and Publisher**
Birzer reported on current book projects, conference attendance, monthly History Talks, the *South Dakota History* journal, and *History Notes* newsletter. Birzer highlighted conference travel, the South Dakota Book Festival, *Giants in the Earth* reprint.

Museum Deaccessions: Prior to the meeting board members were sent deaccession documents for review. During the meeting, Jones provided a summary of issue related to the two items up for deaccession. After a Discussion, **a motion was made by Lauck and seconded by Pearson for approval of the deaccession items.** The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

- **Membership Gift Incentive:** A presentation was given by Jones with recommendation of approving in accordance with Admin Rule 25:52:05:01, to allow current members to give a gift to a non-member at a reduced rate. After discussion, **a motion was made by Pearson and seconded by Lauck to recommend the approval of the motion.** The motion was approved unanimously.

Other Business:

- **History Conference Update:** Vogt provided an update during her directors' report.
- **2025 Board Meeting Schedule:** The 2025 board meeting was reviewed prior to the meeting. After a discussion, the item is to be added to the December meeting agenda pending changes.

- **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. CT or 8:00 a.m. MT in the Mackay Building, Library Commons.

Adjournment:

Pearson made the motion for Adjournment. Whitebird seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

I, Benjamin F. Jones, Director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, declare that these minutes are true, and an accurate reflection of the business conducted at the April 4, 2024, meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees.

Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D.
State Historian and Director
South Dakota State Historical Society

Jamie Hageman
Administrative Assistant
South Dakota State Historical Society