

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
Cultural Heritage Center  
Pierre, South Dakota  
June 10, 2022**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees was called to order by Vice President Tom Hurlbert in the Education Room of the Cultural Heritage Center, Pierre, South Dakota. A quorum was present.

**Board members present via ZOOM and Conference call:**

Marshall Damgaard, John D. Fowler, Tom Hurlbert, Billie Kingfisher, Brian Sandvig, Lura Roti, David Wolff, Michelle Dennis, Brad Tennant, and David Patterson.

**Board Members Not Present:**

Peggy Sanders

Jennifer Winter

**State Historical Society Foundation Staff Present:**

Ben Jones, Cassie Vogt, Chelle Somsen, Catherine Forsch, State Historical Foundation, Ted Spencer and Jozef Lamfers, Debra Birzer, Kevin Larsen, David Grabitske, and Lynnette Eckert

**Others Present:**

Robert Kolbe

**Welcome and Announcements:**

Vice President Tom Hurlbert led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by welcome to the members of the board, staff of the South Dakota Historical Society and guests.

**Election of Trustee officers (Action)**

Brian Sandvig made a motion to elect Tom Hurlbert as President and John Fowler as Vice president. Brad Tennant second the motion. Motion was unanimous.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

**Lura Roti made a motion to adopt the agenda. Brad Sandvig seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.**

**Approval of Board Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Board of Trustees of April 21,2022 meeting were mailed to the members of the Board of Trustees after that meeting. Brian Sandvig made a motion to approve to the minutes with corrections of the April 21,2022 meeting. Brad Tennent seconded motion. The motion was unanimous.

**Conflict of Interest: (SDCL3-23)** There were none

**Public Comment: (SDCL 1-25-1)** There were none.

## Reports:

### **A. Administration- Ben Jones (see attachment)**

Ben Jones reported Renee Boen, has retired as of June 8, 2022. Also retiring was Jane Watts and they both will be greatly missed at the Archaeology Office. Ben Jones asked reported that Jeff Mammenga has retired as of June 8, 2022, after serving as the Director's "right hand" and in state government for over 30 years. Kevin Larsen is replacing Jeff Mammenga in Membership Relations. Kevin has over a decade of radio and communications at KYNT, KCCR and radio stations. David Grabitske joined the staff in late April. David is leading many issues at the museum and the museum staff are glad he has arrived. David is also very involved in the renovation of the building. At this writing the interview process for the Curator position in the museum.

Annual Conference: There was overwhelmingly positive feedback from the conference. Attendees and presenters liked the flexibility to participate in a hybrid format or in person and the virtual attendance increased total attendees. We had 90 attendees in person and 25 virtually. We are working hard to design the program with active K-12 teachers' participations and considering some options to bring more people to conference. In months to come we will involve the Board of Trustees in that process. In the meantime, Ted Spencer and SHPO staff has been long time planning and is in preparation for next year's conference in April 2023. We intend to keep hybrid format.

CHC Renovation: McCough Construction has begun working with us and the Architect on developing the phasing plan for the upcoming renovation. Weekly meetings and expect to develop a thorough review of the mezzanines and shelving as an integral part of the overall renovation plan. Soil testing is going around the building and underneath the building as well. As the time approaches Ben will show the completed design. The start time of the renovation has been determined yet. We are working with the Bureau of Administration for temporary office and storage areas. We are exploring options to display some of the exhibits in another museums.

Next month the design firm Splitrock is to guide us through the Initial Schematic Design of the museum. The SDHS Foundation has organized a sub-committee to begin design a campaign to support the museum's improvement and modernization.

David Grabitske stated that the Kolbe Collection of barbed wire is proposed for Deaccession and will need the board action.

Brain Sandvig made the motion for the Deaccession of museum items back to Mr. Kolbe. David Wolff seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous. Mr. Kolbe was present for that action and will pick up collection on the September meeting.

Ben Jones presented options to the board could use for the candidate election voting process. It was pointed out by the Attorney General the statue SDCL 1-18-13.3" That the Historical Trustees elections will be conducted using the voting process that is to be determined by the board." Furthermore, they advised that state law, in general, seeks to protect private information.

the two following options are:

**Option 1:** Continue the practice of the staff to do written paragraphs and send out to the active members. Also, that staff will not facilitate any further communications between candidates and members.

**Option 2:** Approve by modifying the current voting proceeds to allow candidate to demonstrate their fitness for election in their own words to accompany ballots.

Lura Roti made a motion to use **Option 2** with the following amendment to allow the candidates to have an image and limit the writing to one page and to have a template and standardized form. John Fowler second the motion. Motion was unanimous.

#### **B. Archaeology-Cassie Vogt (Interim) State Archaeologist (Attachment)**

Cassie Vogt is the Interim Archaeological as Renee Boen retired June 8, 2022.

Cassie Vogt stated they have 1 Forensic volunteer hate has a PHD in Research from Ga. And worked on Missouri River. Also had a contract with Corp of Engineers and working with Tribes and Tribal land on deposits in those areas.

Cassie Vogt reported she is working with BHR on doing a reclassification on a position in the office.

Ben Jones and Cassie Vogt have begun the formal search for a new state Archaeologist.

#### **C. SHRAB ARCHIVIST (Action)**

Chelle Somsen brought up that they need a third member for SHRAB ARCHIVIST. The current members are Marshall Damgaard and Jennifer Winters.

John Fowler motioned to nominate David Patterson as the third member. Billie Kingfisher Jr. second the motion. Motion was unanimous.

#### **D. Archives-Chelle Somsen, State Archivist**

Submitted her report (attachment)

Chelle Somsen gave an update on the Digitization Project, Outreach and Archives Month is in October.

Chelle Somsen stated they hired Kevin DeVries and started April 25 as the Research Room Administrator. Chelle Somsen stated he has busy.

Statistics for April the archives received 11 gifts and transfers totaling 2.65 cubic feet and 35,216.47 MB. 27 collections totaling 54.95 feet and 528MD we processed. Archives staff handles a total of 366 reference requests by mail, phone and 58 individuals visited the Archives.

Our workspace that is currently at the State Women's Prison that is use for the Special Projects Program is going to be needed for the prison. The Special Projects Program equipment will need to be removed by Steve Mayer and the Archive staff from that space. We do not know when this will take place but within the next few months.

#### **E. Historical Society Foundation-Catherine Forsch, CEO (Attachment)**

Catherine Forsch reported the Foundation Board Update on Oral History Project; SD politics 1970 to Mid-1990's. This is supporting our mission of preserving history. There are 70 individuals to be interviewed at cost est. of \$84,000. They are looking for more funding.

Catherine Forsch reported on for the Changing times of Women of 1960s to 1980's. The estimated cost to do 27 interviews is \$37,800.

Larry Ness gun collections was up for auction. We did not reach the goal to purchase the gun we were interested in.

Board Development- At the August Foundation meeting, the board will identify the nomination committee to start vetting board meeting or 2023-2025 term. With emphasis will be on identifying individuals that can help us open doors for the future capital funds.

Catherine Forsch reported on the upcoming meeting of the Foundation Board meeting 8/5/2022 and the membership meeting will be 7/20/22.

Catherine Forsch reported the History talks will be June 10 2:00PM MT / 3:00PM CT via ZOOM "The Morning After the Flood,". On July 7, 2022, at 7:00pm and 8:00 pm via ZOOM it will be with Hector Curriel Author of *American Ace: Joe Foss, Fighter Pilot*

#### **F. Historic Preservation Ted Spencer (Attachment)**

Ted Spencer gave update on new hire Duncan Trau will start In June as our new Historic Preservation Technical support. Duncan is coming from Ball State University, Muncie, IN. He has an M.A. in Historic Preservation.

Ted Spencer introduced Jozef Lamfers to the board as the new Review and Compliance Archivist. Josef has Masters in Archeology and attended Iowa State.

Ted Spencer reported that Liz Almlie was selected to join the board of National Collaborative for Women's History sites. Note: Liz put together a small display marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SHOP in June.

#### **National Register/National Historic Landmark (NHL) Listings**

Ted Spencer reported there were no new nominations for the June Board meeting. But anticipate four new nominations for the next trustee meeting in September.

Ted Spencer reported that SD Historical Preservation Office has received the final allocation in May from National Park Service (NPS) for our Historic Preservation Funds (HPF) grand award of \$945,421 for SD FFY 2022.

Ted Spencer reported SD Historical Preservation office had sponsored and participated in a highly successful Certified Local Government Conference. The office had 126 entries for annual Fourth Grade Essay Contest.

Ted Spencer reported that SD Historical Preservation Office had received funding to transition to and electronic review and Compliance system as part of the Governor's initiative to digitize and place many online state agency functions and tasks online. Ted reported the system has been performing quite well.

Ted Spencer reported the one new Programmatic Agreement was completed this quarter with National Forest Service and that six new Memorandum Agreements were completed.

Ted Spencer reported the Deadwood items there were 8 certificates of Appropriateness reviewed this quarter. Ted Spencer reported that Deadwood provided on site assistance twice this quarter.

Ted Spencer Reported that the FY2022/2023 Marjory Contract Projects consists of an Architectural Survey of Hughes/Stanley Counties. The Contract is in place and field work has begun.

Ted Spencer reported that the survey of Deadwood National Register District deadline will be on June 1, 2023. The CKLI Assoc. of Rapid City has been selected and the contract is in place and the work has begun. Ted Spencer reported the Bison Kill Nominations Project deadline will be on June 1, 2023. Augustana University was selected for this project. The contract is in place and work will begin in late June. Along with a summer project at Ree Heights and Deadwood.

#### **G. Museum- David Grabitske (Attachment)**

Assistant Director David Grabitske has started as the Museum Director on April 25, 2022.

David Grabitske reported on The Kolbe Collection of Barbed wire that is proposed for Deaccession. Mr. Kolbe was present for that action and will pick up collection on the September meeting.

David Grabitske reported that museum staff met with the contractor, James Tordoff of the firm Split Rock Studios previous Deaton Museum Services, that created the current exhibits. Split Rock will complete the schematic Design 1. The current exhibit is The Art of Dick Termes which opened May21, 20220 until August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. In the Hogen Gallery.

Programming

David Grabitske reported there were education kits have served 2,800 to date in half of the state house districts. Staff had participated in educational programming as they are requested.

#### **H. Research & Publishing- Dedra Birzer (attachment)**

Dedra Birzer reported that Slater Sabo would be joining the staff as Assistant Editor and joining the office this summer. He has a Master of Arts in History from **Austin Peay State University**. He has worked as an editor for professional historical journals.

Dedra Birzer reported three books are currently at the printers. William Pratt's After Populism and Christopher Vondraceks. Dancing with Welk and fourth volume of The Plains Political Tradition, an anthology edited by Jon K. Lauch and Paula M. Nelson will be sent to publisher in late June. The books will be featured at Festival of Books in Brookings in late September.

Dedra Birzer also reported that History conference a success. SD History journal is waiting at printer to be published on June 28 or 29.

Dedra Birzer reported this summer Cody Ewert will be attending the Charles Russell Spur Award 2022 conference and will be accepting the Spur Award Vendors will be attending, and Cody Ewert will be promoting our books.

Dedra Birzer reported that the Wild West conference June 28-29 and David Wolff will have two Presentations at the conference.

Dedra Birzer also touched on the Rapid City Flood event anniversary. On July 7 Hector Curriel, American Ace Joe Foss event on Zoom.

Ben Jones also encouraged the board to visit the Journey Museum for exhibit on the Rapid City flood. The exhibit will be at Journey Museum until October.

**Any Certificates of Appreciation:** none

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** none

**Other Business:**

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be September 9, 2022, time, and location to be determined

**Executive Session:** none

**Adjournment:**

John Fowler made the motion for Adjournment. David Wolff second the motion. Motion was unanimous.

I, Benjamin Jones, Director of the South Dakota Historical Society, declare that these minutes are true and accurate reflections of the business conducted at the June 10, 2022, meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees.

**Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D.**

**South Dakota Historical Society**

Lynnette Eckert

Temporary Recording Secretary