
BIHS Full Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 3pm

Attendees

Director, Lori Taylor-Blitz, Angel Welke, Tracy Paquin, Jacque LaFreniere, Sue Screven, Joe Callian, Alan Vicstein, Craig Turnbull, George Broder.

Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

Last Meeting Follow-up

1. Minutes from the November 6 meeting were approved unanimously by the board.

New Business

Presidents Report

2. Angel proposed working together with the Chamber of Commerce to host a cash raffle this year. It will begin on St. Patrick's Day and continue until the Irish Feile in September. Profits will be split evenly between the Chamber and BIHS. There was some concern with creating too much workload for Lori. Motion was made to approve the participation in the raffle by Jacque and seconded by Sue. Tracy was opposed. All others approved.
 3. Angel expressed many thanks to Lori and her crew for hosting a well received holiday celebration at the museum. The feedback from the attendees was very positive.
 4. A concerted effort is being made this year to coordinate the planning of events and fundraising opportunities with all of the 503C organizations involved in event planning on the island. A year-long calendar has been started by Lori, Angel, Paul Cole and Kevin Boyle. The goal is to maximize revenue for all and spread the planned activities to times of the year when little is planned.
 5. Tracy proposed possibly increasing Cheryl Kern's hours to provide more office assistance for Lori. Motion made by Tracy, second by Jacque, full board in favor.
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Treasurer's Report /Jacque

6. The Masini Family sign for the Marine Museum has arrived on the island. Money was borrowed from the historical society funds, to be paid back by the family.
Motion to approve report made by Alan, seconded by Joe. All those present in favor.

Development Report/Sue

7. The suggestion that using Donor Snap to keep track of the dates for membership renewal was revisited. There was some discussion about a possible problem in the by-laws, with regards to renewals times. Angel is looking into the issue.
8. Donor appreciation displays at both museums were further discussed. Ideas included using the net floats we have at the Marine Museum display and the apple tree as the theme for the Print Shop.

Maintenance Report

9. Work is still being done on the foundation of the Marine Museum.
10. The freon in the AC units in the front room of the Print Shop has been replaced.

Director's Report

11. The event calendar for July is full. Efforts are being made to coordinate with the other event planners on the island to distribute the activities more evenly, throughout the year. Lori and Angel are working with Paul Cole and Kevin Boyle to try and make this happen.
12. The BIHS will host Bingo during the months of January through April. It will be the fourth Saturday of the month at 6:30 pm.
13. A "Cabaret" event is a possibility for raising funds during the slow season.
14. Amy is currently helping Lori with marketing for the Society. Lori is in need of more help during the busy season. This would cost between \$3,000 - \$3,500. Ideal times would be 3 to 5 hours per week over 2 days.
15. Cheryl Kern can only work a maximum of 10 hours per week assisting Lori.
16. We will try to get Beaver Islandopoly games and BI puzzles to sell in the gift shop.

The Northern Islander

17. There have been 21 subscription renewals so far this year.
18. The paper has 550 subscribers (50 During the month of December).
19. Amy is making herself available to create adds for clients.
20. We discussed making smaller adds available to make up sections of the paper. For example, several clients could share a quarter page add space at a proportional cost.
21. Last year we received \$44,000 in End of Year Giving donations. As of 1/8/24 we have received \$19,000.

22. The first edition of the Beaver Beacon is in print. The staff sees room for improvement and will be working towards a better publication.
23. Lori has applied for a MDARD grant of \$130,000 to pay for repairs to the roof, flooring and deck of the Marine Museum and paint for the "Bob S. If granted, we will have 18 months to complete the work.
24. We should receive \$25,000 from the Donnelley Foundation. Other funds may come from HGTV.
25. Lu O'Connor has been hired to help with operations using Quickbooks.
26. The Society received \$4,000 in funds for Kid's Camp.
27. \$11,000 has been received for operational support.
28. Covid Recovery could help pay back the \$63,000 SBA loan.
29. Irrigation will be installed in the pollinator garden when weather permits.
30. The BIHS is planning on renting snowshoes during the winter months.

Good For The Society

32. Lori and Bobbie Welke have been talking with Charlevoix County about the possibility of bringing broadband to the south end of the island. They said if educational opportunities exist at the south end, they might be more willing to lay cable for it. Talks are ongoing.

33. Joe suggested we look into adding a virtual tour of the museums to our website. Lori is going to see if there is a grant available for it.

34. There was some discussion as to whether or not the eagle's nest that blew down over the winter can be used for display at the museum.

35. Efforts are being made to coordinate the pollinator garden and the library to create a Seed Library.

Motion to adjourn was made by Sue, seconded by Joe. Meeting ended at 4:05.

Minutes submitted by Sue Screven, Secretary for BIHS.