Meeting of the Board of Directors

Traverse Area Historical Society

March 5, 2019

Traverse Area District Library – Thirlby Room

Attendees: Stephen Siciliano, Peg Siciliano, Fred Anderson,

Sharon Jennings, Jenny Loup, Jim Warner, Matt Groleau

Larry Hains arrived late due to a previously scheduled meeting.

Guest: Brian McCall - Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Siciliano at 6:36 PM.

**Secretary’s Report**: The minutes of the February Board meeting had been provided to board members prior to the March meeting. Ms. Jennings moved, and Mr. Warner seconded, that the minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

1. Marketing

**Surveys**. Ms. Jennings asked the purpose of the question on income; Mr. Anderson pointed out it could lead to Endowment Funds. Mr. Siciliano suggested we take the gender question out – done. Mr. Anderson suggested we ask why people are members. What do they like? How satisfied are they? Ms. Loup: Ask people about other ideas they might have, are they interested in volunteering? Do they feel there are adequate volunteer opportunities?

Mr. Groleau explained this survey is meant to be more of a profile of our membership, with its primary focus being to find out what our membership looks like – just members. Matt will edit the survey based on applicable comments above, and send out the survey. He may do surveys maybe every other month. We can also use other methods for member feedback. He has put together a members-only e-mail list. Md. Jennings and Ms. Loup will figure how to update the members list as members are added and dropped

**Visit to storage unit/office space:**  Mr. Groleau reported that he believes ½ of what is in the storage unit could be shifted to office space; ¼ gotten rid of; ¼ kept. He suggests office space of 100 to 150 sq. feet would be adequate. He looked at a $400 a month space upstairs in Beadle building. Suggested maybe the owner would cut the rent as a charitable donation. He is waiting to hear back on space on the northwest corner of Boardman and State. Guest Mr. McCall suggested checking in to space at the TCAPS Boardman Administration building. Mr. Siciliano will check there; Mr. Groleau will check at the Old City Hall.

**Ladies Library Plaque -** Mr. Groleau reported that Mr. Walton and his law firm has had the plaque redone and it is currently in their entryway. As weather allows they will have it installed outside (likely on the existing post) later this year. Mr. Walton had also inquired of our group about where he may be able to locate photos of the rear of the building (former Ladies Library). Mr. Groleau forwarded his request to Amy Barritt who will look into it further.

1. Membership

Ms. Jennings reported that membership is at 176

1. Archives

Ms. Siciliano reported that TADL will run the internship program, but with the intern being a temporary employee paid by TADL. The TAHS can then reimburse TADL the cost of the employee. Mr. Hains made a motion that the TAHS agree to dedicate up to $1000.00 for two $500 Petertyl interns to work at TADL this summer. The money would be given to TADL specifically for payment to the interns. Mr. Groleau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Programs and Events

The Speakeasy Program for Sunday, March 10th is all set to go. Mr. Hains suggest “Perry sent me” as the password. Ms. Siciliano will bring rack cards.

Ms. Loup will set up a meeting for organizing the 2019 tours.

Ms. Jennings will not be able to attend the March 16th meeting. Someone else will need to do the registration table.

**President’s Report**

1. Mr. Siciliano reported on an e-mail exchange with Steve Morris, former board member of the History Center of Traverse City. Mr. Morris requested that representatives from the Society join a group interested in establishing a history museum in Traverse City. Mr. Warner noted it was a shame that a place the size of Traverse City does not have a history museum. The board discussed whether the society had the capacity to engage in such a large undertaking but determined it was important to explore the topic with other interested community members. It was agreed that Mr. Groleau and Mr. Anderson will meet with this exploratory group and gather more information and report back to the TAHS Board.
2. and C. Storage and office space were discussed under the Marketing Report.

**Treasurer’s Report**

TAHS account balance is $26,121.30

-Petertyl Fund - $ 8,757.11

-Lautner Fund - $ 300.99

-General Fund- $ 7,063.20

-CD Investment- $10,000.00

\*More notifications regarding the placement of antennas on the Park Place have arrived. It was decided that this was not a concern of the TAHS.

\*InaComp – Mr. Hains reported that he had trouble with the passwords to the TAHS laptop, and there was a $95 InaComp charge to fix the problem.

\*Rebalancing = The board discussed rebalancing our financial assets by moving more of the Petertyl Fund into certificates of deposit in order to receive higher return on the funds. Mr. Hains proposed to rebalanced the TAHS funds by moving $5,000 from Petertyl into a CD. A motion was made to authorize Mr. Hains to find a CD within the same maturity date timeframe as our other CD. The motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Siciliano. It passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Mr. McCall noted that he has a presentation on the Benzie Polar Bears which might be of interest to the TAHS. There was a question about World War II activity in Traverse City. It was suggested Stef Staley be contacted as she has researched this topic.

Mr. Groleau expressed some concerns about the release form used on the tours.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28.