

HAHS Minutes

September 25, 2023

Attendees: Janet Boyer, Carol Desch, Mary Kirstein, Monica Ruder, Ron Shank, Bob Voss, Wendy Skarstad, Dennis Schwark, Jane Schwark, Betty Plante, Judy Witheft and Myrna Masching

Call to Order: Mary Kirstein, President called the meeting to order at 6:01pm

Minutes were read by Judy Witheft, acting secretary in absence of Cindy and Debbie Witheft. Noted typo on minutes of Ton should be Ron. Wendy Skarstad made a motion to approve minutes as corrected Betty Plante seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report: Myrna passed out a new suggestion for a meeting report which was current as of July 2023 with current balances of checking and Savings Accounts noted on the form. Discussion on the format that is needed. Suggested the Annual budget Amount be listed on each report and the remaining balance of that Item. More details showing what and who was actually paid for expenses and details as far as income for each current month. Myrna will work on suggestions for report before next meeting. Discussed cost of unexpected Air Conditioner replacement for Main Street museum. Discussed the amount of the unexpected expense of approximately \$5,000 to replace the Main Street air conditioning unit and decided to include that information in the upcoming HAHS quarterly newsletter. By doing so, we afford our readers the opportunity to donate to this expense and at the same time reminding them that any donation is tax free. Mentioned possible other large expenses – does roof for garage need to be replaced and or possibly house roof. Roof should be inspected before Cupola project is addressed again in spring. Other items – Wish list- would be nice to have current list to encourage donations for specific items.

Old Business:

Events:

Labor Day Recap – Mary asked for suggestions for improvements and or changes for 2024 Labor Day celebration in Herscher. Mary noted that the display outside of her home was received well by a lot of parade watchers and many items were handed out to passersby. Having the museum open on Sunday was again highly recommended for 2024 since 2023 was well attended. Group also believes the Museum should have set open Hours on Monday since this year it was only open per appointment and although no appointments – Carol and Mary gave tours of the museums during the day as they were requested by parade attendees. More discussion to follow in July for details and hours and noted to be sure the Chamber is informed of our plans so advertising can be included in their information to the public 2024.

Christmas Sale – Jane reported this will be our 5th Christmas Sale – she thanked everyone for all their years of making them successful. After a discussion on whether the Sale needed to be both Saturday and Sunday it was decided that both days were beneficial. Jane reported the 2023 Christmas Sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 11th, 9-4 and Sunday, November 12th, 10-2. There will be a bake Sale in the main part of the Anderson House beginning at 9:00 (Janet Boyer will be in charge of the Bake Sale). Items can be dropped off beginning at 8:00 and items should be marked with a price. There will be NO presales on baked items or on Christmas Sale items. Jane passed around a sheet with dates and time of work setup for the Christmas Sale and a sheet for Sale days on Saturday and Sunday. Work

Days are as follows –Tuesday, October 3, 9:00; Friday, Oct. 6, 2:00; Monday, Oct. 9, 10:00 and Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 4:00. Text Jane to sign up. Also you can text Jane to help on Sale Days November 11th and 12th and let Janet know if you can help with Bake Sale. Christmas items can be dropped off anytime. Jane is hoping to get some kids to volunteer to help bring boxes up from the basement to have ready for the Oct 3rd workday. If you know of any groups that are interested in community service notify Mary or Jane for a time to bring up boxes. Advertising was discussed for Christmas Sale suggested we need to get pricing from the new Dwight paper so possibly we can advertise here plus in the Pilot, on Facebook, and with Flyers. Jane will work on Flyers and distribute by October 9th (she would like to get pictures of some of our items on the flyers). Mary will get the cash for the Sale. Jane also mentioned that the only presale that should be done are the many light clips that could be sold and will not be needed for the display.

Exhibition – Displays

Mary discussed the handout that was distributed last month with suggested displays. The business idea was discussed and suggested that could be incorporated with our Business interviews. Businesses being interviewed should be asked if they have any items that could be displayed at the Museum. Other ideas that were mentioned to add to the list – ladies holiday dish display (Janet Boyer), Chuck Quick has a display of many old barns and farm equipment that could possibly make up a display. It was noted that we have 5 large display cases so possibly more than one suggestion could be used for the next display. Another suggestion was former teachers – we could involve the schools by asking for former pictures of teachers, classrooms and administration etc that could be used. Monica Ruder suggested a possible display of our many many pictures. Although many pictures are not identified – a type of contest could be developed having visitors identify pictures and a prize be given for the most identified, oldest picture identified etc. A date was set for February 2024 to have the current Sports display removed and the new display (to be determined) in place.

Treasurer Report info given at this time by Myrna. See above for discussions during the report under Treasure Report.

Buildings-

Mural/Painting project: Ron and Bob reported that the building brick painting has been completed. They have been in contact with artist for the Mural which will be on the South Side. 13 pictures were reviewed – 4 were sent to the artist. An approximate cost of \$2000-2500 was quoted from the Artist. He will present a sketch to Bob and Ron. Mural will be buildings etc that are no longer visible in Herscher. Buildings that are currently still in Herscher will not be part of the sketch (such as old bank building, Herscher house etc).The approximate time frame for the competition of the mural is October.

New Business

Programs/Projects for 2024 - Mary encourage everyone to begin now submitting ideas for 2024 so planning can begin

Fund Raisers 2024 – Mary encourage everyone to be aware of what other museums and organizations are doing for fund Raisers and submit to her for discussion at upcoming meetings.

Janet Boyer made a motion to Adjourn the meeting – Seconded by Betty Plant. Motion Passed.