

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting~ April 27, 2021

Dan Busler called the Membership Meeting to order. Twenty (20) active members answered roll call.

Minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting were distributed prior to this evening's meeting. Jan Kahle moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mike Axton seconded. Approved.

Trustees' minutes were distributed. A motion to suspend the reading of the minutes was made by Jan Kahle. Mike Axton seconded. Accepted.

Connie Weinzapfel presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and hold for audit was made by Christine Crews. Charles Huck seconded. Accepted.

Secretary's Report ~ dispensed at this time.

FWMI Report was given by Christine Crews. Due to the Pandemic, we were unable to continue with our 2020 Lecture Series. These lectures will be held in 2021. Our keynote speaker for this year's Independence Day celebration will be Abigail Owen-Pontez. I will let Shannon know the dates of the events.

Long-range Planning and Special Projects Committee Report ~ Connie Weinzapfel reported that the Long-range plan was updated February 5, 2020 but due to the COVID-19 Pandemic was unable to report on the update. The Long-range plan is broken into three groups: library, archives, museum. Some of the goals of the library are to always address the digital divide. We want to continue to replace older computers, add a device charging station, expand programming for all ages and continue to offer e-books. The Archive is an ongoing project. We have great volunteers. We want to continue the organization of the storage area by having the latest materials and organizational tools available that will help make the items in our collection more assessable. This would include digitization and internet availability of these items. We, again, want to employ the correct materials and organizational tools in the museum as well. This will be an ongoing project as well. The four main rooms within the facility have all been renovated. We are repairing the roof and that will be addressed in this evening's meeting. We would like to have the fence and the sidewalks repaired in the future. We have had a tree assessment done. Ryan is working getting someone to have them pruned.

Special Projects ~ Adam Green presented his plans for the Roof Restoration Project. We have put together drawings. These drawings are just one part of the bid packet that will go out to potential general contractors and roofers. In addition to these drawings, there will an invitation to bid which will include specifications. The goal is to get at least three qualified bids from contractors with very tight comparisons. Having these drawings will help with this process. The deadline for bids is June. We should have bids back by July. In August, we hope to be in negotiations with these contractors. September would be the target month to begin the preparations of the building. The bulk of the construction would then be October through December.

Nathan Maudlin then discussed the financials for the project. It was suggested that they ask the town board for a donation towards the Roof Restoration Project.

Membership ~ None

Old Business ~ none

New Business ~

Director's Report ~ In October, I delivered the Eight-Legged Calf to Gaston Wildlife Art in Minnesota. Tom Guggenheim did an assessment on our trees. He did recommend that one of our trees on the west side of the building be cut down. Jim Brown has removed the tree as recommended by Mr. Guggenheim. I attended the Indiana Library Federation Conference on November 17-18, 2020. This year it was a virtual event. Our "12 Stories of Christmas" Facebook event launched in November. We had 12 volunteers read a different Christmas story with the final story occurring on Christmas Eve. We had 6132 adults 667 children come to the WMI last year. The numbers were down due to the pandemic. I, along with the staff, have completed the Annual Library Report. The State Board of Accounts report was completed as well. Work is continuing on the staff bathroom. Jim Naas has finished the drywall and is now refinishing the floor. We received notice earlier this week that our Payroll Protection Program loan has been forgiven and paid in full. I submitted a preliminary proposal to the Indiana Historical Society for a heritage support grant asking for \$30,000 continued funding for our collection management activities. We received word last week the proposal has been approved and we have been invited to submit a full grant proposal. HF Refrigeration has turned on our air conditioning. The virtual program "The Grotesque 10" presented by Mathew Duman had 6 participants. We would like to thank Mr. Duman for his time to give this very intriguing program. HF Refrigeration has turned on our air conditioning. The Farmer's Market presented by the WMI began Saturday April 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Our summer reading program Tales and Tails is being planned. It will be beginning the last week of June and run until the first week of August. The WMI mourns the loss of our honorary member, Ron Richards. Over the years Mr. Richards and his team conducted research here at the WMI. He passed on March 26, 2021. His death is an incredible loss for family, friends, colleagues, and the scientific community.

With no other business, Ted Moore moved to adjourn the meeting.