

Dodge County Historical Society Board of Directors Minutes
February 21, 2008

Present: Don Smith, Marlene Glaus, Lynette Dahms, Barb Gilliland, Dale Morris, Gene Hallaway, Scott French and Director Earlene King.

Absent: Ruth Stringer and Melisa Ferris

Visitors to the Board: Sue Harwood, Lois Nash

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Petitions to the Chair: none

Amendments/Additions to the Agenda: Barb Gilliland requested an addition to the agenda for New Business, (11.9) Scott French made the motion to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Lynette Dahms. Motion carried.

Minutes of the November 2007 meeting: Barb Gilliland moved to accept the November minutes as submitted. Lynette Dahms seconded the motion. Motion carried.

It was noted that there were no DCHS Board meetings in December 2007 and January 2008 therefore no meeting minutes were taken for consideration and/or approval.

Treasurer's Report: After questions and clarifications regarding designated and general memorial donations Scott French made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Dale Morris seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Monthly Reports: Museum sales for the month of January totaled \$190.38. Two annual memberships were received for a total of \$20.00 memorial donations for \$30.00 were received during January. Three Pioneer Certificates were applied for with the accompanying \$30.00. A total deposit of \$270.38 was made. There were 20 visitors to the museum during the month of January. This was very good attendance since the museum was closed until January 16 with the museum open only 7 days.

Director's Report: Director King reported the details of the Minnesota Historical Society's grant award for the Past Perfect project. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Historical Society, August 31, 2007. The DCHS award was announced in early December 2007 with the acceptance forms to be signed and returned to the Minnesota Historical Society. January 7, 2008 brought the final and official notice of the award with the grant money to arrive in 30 days. The Past Perfect software, a desktop and laptop capable of handling the software was purchased. The grant was a matching grant. MHS provided \$3,370.

Preparations continue for the DCHS reference and research library to be located in the museum's sacristy. Electrical work is still needed to install 5 new outlets in the sacristy. A 36" wheeled book cart is still needed for a mobile shelving unit to store family history compilations for use by the researchers. Volunteers are needed to move more items to the Wasioja school for storage. Also, volunteers are needed for to build book shelves in the library area and move file cabinets and microfilm readers to the sacristy. Board

members suggested electricians to contact. Dale Morris suggested Jim Maxson. Director King shared with the Board that Jim Maxson had been contacted in person and hadn't gotten back with a decision. It was also suggested that Joel Alberts of A & A Electric be contacted as well as the SE Electrical Union. Director King will make inquiries.

Director King reminded the board of the Kasson Public Library "Hot Reads for Cold Nights" presentation by John James Koblas about Jesse James. February 28, 2008 7pm.

The hanging portion of the museum sign had been blown down and damaged more than what was reported in November. Lynette Dahms will check the downed sign to see how it can be repaired. The hanging portion of the museum sign had the building number "615". It was not a part of the original metal sign made by Abels.

Director King advised the Board that she would be attending the Friends of the Library annual meeting Saturday, February 23rd. Thelma Givan volunteered to attend to the museum while the director was at the meeting.

The garbage issue at the museum was addressed. Director King advised the Board that removal of the museum garbage had been hit and miss throughout the year. Director King again recommended to the Board that for \$35 for 10 A to Z Sanitation bags the museum garbage could be removed for \$3.50 per month. Lynette Dahms made the motion that 10 A to Z garbage bags could be purchased for museum garbage removal and continue to be purchased when the package of 10 had been used. Scott French seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Log cabin – Lynette Dahms submitted a report regarding the condition of the log cabin. (report on file) The greatest concern about the log cabin is the condition of the logs. They are deteriorating badly and rapidly. Experts were consulted. Immediate preservation techniques were strongly suggested to be completed this spring and summer, before the fair. Lynette submitted an estimate from Turner Painting & Decorating of \$3,500 - \$3,700. Dale Morris stated that pressure washing of the logs would force moisture further into the logs that would take too much time for the logs to dry out before preservation work could be completed. Lynette stated that the pressure washing could be eliminated from the estimate and not done. During the log cabin discussion Barb Gilliland suggested that the Building and Facilities committee review Lynette Dahm's report and the Turner Painting and Decorating estimate and make a recommendation.

The ghost town tour committee did not have a report for the Board. Barb Gilliland, committee member, stated that a report would be presented at the March board meeting.

A proposal for a Spring Member Tour was submitted to the Board. The tour would include 2 of the three suggested sites; Dodge County Poor Farm, Wasioja cheese factory, or a grist mill in Concord or Eagle Valley. The Board discussed the proposal. A concern was voiced by Barb Gilliland that the proposed spring tour would be too much like the ghost town tour. Barb again stated that she and Ruth Stringer would have a ghost town

tour report for the March meeting. (The proposed tour will be kept on file for future reference.)

The Activities Committee consisting of Barb Gilliland, Marlene Glaus, Lynette Dahms and Ruth Stringer will be meeting to look at spring tour possibilities since the ghost town tour may be in August. Two suggestions were made for the committee to consider; a tour of the limestone kiln in Wasioja and another tour of the Olive quarry. They will report back at the March meeting.

Old Business:

Dodge County's 2008 allocation to the DCHS was \$11,000 only \$1,000 more than 2007. The additional \$1,000 was to help with the care of the Wasioja Seminary ruins which belongs to the county. Don Smith advised the Board that the DCHS should make a presentation to the County Commissioners fully explaining the financial responsibilities of the DCHS and submit a request for a larger and more appropriate county allocation for 2009. Director King suggested that DCHS members show up as a group when the presentation and request is made of the county commissioners.

Minnesota Historical Society grant award letter was made available to each Board member.

Minnesota Sesquicentennial Legacy Grant denial letter was made available to each Board member. The Board agreed that Dodge County ghost town road signs are an excellent idea and worthwhile project to be further pursued if a grant and/or funding could be obtained.

March & April board meetings will be held in the Dodge Center City Hall meeting room. A discussion followed regarding future meeting sites. Scott French suggested January and February board meetings be held earlier in the evenings, 6-6:30 pm. Don Smith stated that such suggestions could and should be considered.

New Business:

Appointment of Board Secretary – Ruth Stringer, Board Secretary submitted her resignation as Board Secretary effective immediately due to personal concerns. President Don Smith appointed board member, Melisa Ferris, as the temporary secretary for March, April and the Annual Meeting. New officers will be elected at the April meeting. (Director King volunteered to take the February Board minutes in Melisa and Ruth's absence.)

Fund raising letter – The best time to send a fund raising letter is in October. No fund raising letter was sent in October 2007. Sue Harwood, a DCHS member, volunteered to draft a fund raising letter to be used for 2008. The Board had no objections or concerns regarding Sue's generous offer to write the fund raising letter.

A membership drive was discussed along with fund raising.

Endowment fund and research: Sue Harwood, with President Don Smith's permission, volunteered to research endowment funds for future financial sustainability of the DCHS. Sue announced that in her research and networking she consulted with Steve Thornton, the manager of the Rochester Area Foundation and a knowledgeable DCHS member, Lois Jorstad. Mrs. Jorstad was so pleased with the DCHS interest in a long term financial plan she donated to the DCHS a \$10,000 endowment fund through the Rochester Area Foundation.

Summer School: 2008 Summer School budget was presented. President Don Smith made the motion that the Activities Committee makes all necessary decisions regarding Summer School before the March board meeting to meet the Community Education brochure deadline of March 10, 2008. The Activities Committee will report its decisions at the March board meeting. Gene Hallaway seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting Committee: The first Saturday in April was a day of conflicts for Board members. The concern was having a Board quorum. Dale Morris made the motion to hold the Annual Meeting this year on April 12th. Scott French seconded the motion. Motion carried. President Don Smith volunteered to head up Annual Meeting Committee. Director King will check with the Mantorville Theater Company to see if the Opera House is available for the Annual Meeting. President Don Smith asked for volunteers for the Annual Meeting and volunteers for the election committee. There were no volunteers.

Barb Gilliland asked the Board if there needed to be any changes to the constitution (bylaws). Marlene Glaus requested a change in the bylaws to allow proxy votes for members if they are unable to attend the Annual Meeting. President Don Smith explained that the bylaws now require a percentage of members to be in attendance at the Annual Meeting for an election to take place. The amount of changes needed for the bylaws to allow proxy votes would be counter-productive and not in the best interest of the historical society as a whole.

Property Lease with the City of Mantorville: The Board was given copies of the 99 year lease with the City of Mantorville concerning the museum and property the one room school sits on. The copies were difficult to read. Barb Gilliland and Gene Hallaway will check the DCHS safety deposit box at the Kasson State Bank for the original.

Mantorville Chamber of Commerce Advertisement: The Board was presented with a request from the Mantorville Chamber of Commerce to pay \$75 for a Chamber advertisement in the SE Minnesota Explore magazine. The Board was concerned about not being contacted long before the magazine was published. After much discussion the consensus of the Board was to not pay \$75 for an advertisement the DCHS had no input.

Wasioja School Windows: Robert Scherger, treasurer of the Wasioja township, had asked about the windows in the Wasioja school. They need to be replaced. Discussion followed regarding the cost of replacing the windows with historically accurate windows and researching the availability of grants to help off-set the cost. The Building and

Facilities Committee will look into the current cost of window replacement. The previous estimate was \$1,000 per window and a current estimate is expected to be much greater.

General Discussion:

President Don Smith informed the Board that Marcia Bennerotte's son would like to use the Wasioja church for his June 28, 2008 wedding. The Board agreed. There was a discussion regarding a cleaning deposit and/or rental fee.

Director King asked the Board to mark their calendars for October 11, 2008, 1 pm, when Bob Herskovitz will be presenting "Preserving Family Treasures". A site has not been determined yet.

Adjourn: Dale Morris made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott French seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Earlene King, acting secretary