

**Dodge County Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2008**

Board members present: Scott French, Ruth Stringer, Bob Peterson, Don Smith, Nancy Smith, John Kvasnicka, Melisa Ferris.

Guests: Vicki Peterson, Lynette Dahms, Marilyn Dahms, Mary Ann Bucher, Thelma Givan, Barb Gilliland, Lois Nash, Tom Gall

Additions/ Amendments to Agenda: Johnny K. moved and Scott French seconded to approve amendments to agenda 10.3 Wasioja Seminary. Motion carried

Approve Minutes August 2008 Meeting: Scott F. made motion to approve minutes with corrections. Ruth S. seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Julie D. was not present to give treasurer's report. Johnny K. made motion to defer Treasurer's report. Scott F. seconded. Motion carried.

Per Sue H., the monies for Rendezvous are put in the general fund; but not kept separate. Rendezvous committee kept track of the monies. Julie had to go back and create a list of everything.

Sue H. says the board needs to be fiscally responsible; and we need to have at least four big money makers per year. We can still have educational programs because they do make money. Sue suggests a Christmas program moneymaker at the museum.

Sue H. wants the executive committee to meet on Monday, October 6th at 7pm. at the museum to set a budget from now through 2009. Then come back to the entire board to report.

Nancy S. stated that the budget for all of 2008 is already in place.

Monthly Reports: Interject: Melisa Ferris resigned from the board for personal reasons. Johnny K. offered to take over the office of Secretary until elections after the 2009 annual meeting. Sue H. stated that we can operate with eight board members while we actively seek a candidate to fill Melisa's position.

Director's Report: There were ninety-six visitors to the museum in August. The August net income total from the museum was three hundred, thirty dollars and fifty cents.

Director Earlene K. is working with Kasson-Mantorville, Hayfield, and Triton history classes on the theme Dodge County Women of History. Students will do projects which will be displayed at the DCHS fair booth in 2009.

St. Olaf Heritage Association, which is associated with the DCHS, is restoring the original log cabin church.

The City of Mantorville's sign ordinance is in effect. DCHS signs are grandfathered in; but if they are changed, approval will have to be obtained from the City.

Statement of Ownership: The owner of the artifact must be the person who donates the object and signs the Statement of Ownership. This procedure is put in place to avoid legal problems and to maintain chain of ownership.

Committee Reports;

Ghost town committee financial report: The tour took in \$1566.66; the bills came to \$1207.88 minus the food bill which has not come in, as yet. Barb G. reported that the total profit from the tour should be over two hundred dollars.

Wasioja Civil War Days initial proposed budget and current income: Johnny K. stated that the budget over the next three years will be \$750,000 to \$800,000. The project has already received \$20,000 in donations and signed pledges.

WCWD "1000 Soldiers in 1,000 Days:" The Shivarree was the opening event. The profit from the Shivarree was \$1,005. It created interest and will be done again in 2009. The Mantorville Saloon and the Hubbell House are interested in sponsoring the event. Information on "1000 Soldiers in 1000 Days" will be published in the Hilltop Chronicle. Two hundred fifty invitations have been sent out to the kick off event on Saturday September 20th at the Wasioja school from 4:00pm to 6:30pm. There will be a silent auction, speakers, music and displays. This is aimed at getting individuals to pledge. The next phase will be involvement of Dodge County towns, townships, and businesses. Grants are also being pursued. Most of these grants are matching grants.

Johnny K. and Dale Morris put up the new flag pole at the Wasioja school. Kasson Hardware Hank and Kasson Lumber donated the concrete. The Kasson American Legion donated the hardware.

Changes to the DCHS Website: see attached. Don S. stated that as Chairperson of the Technology Committee he was not made aware of any need for changes. He stated that the committee is in place to take care of the website and any questions or problems should be emailed to him. Don also stated that it is the job of the committee to discuss and decide on changes, not anyone else. Mary Ann Bucher gave a presentation on the current status of the website and addition of Tom Gall and John Duetermann to the technology committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust --Risk Control Survey: Exit signs have been ordered for the Wasioja school. They will have a battery backup so if the power goes out they will still be seen. Bob Peterson will check with his boss to see if a ticket can be written to do the installation.

The playground equipment will stay, since it is an historical part of the school grounds. However, fill needs to be added underneath the equipment for safety's sake.

Wasioja book reprint permission documents: Johnny K. is waiting for the legal documents that release Sheryl Crouch's copyright ownership to Quentin Crouch so that the book can be reprinted. Since there are a number of inaccuracies in the original Wasioja book, Nancy S. suggested that with three years time a book could be researched, written and published. The DCHS Board would then own the copyright. This suggestion will be considered.

Book cart research: Johnny K. has one that he will donate to the museum. It will be used for the family genealogy books.

Museum sewer line: Scott is waiting on bids for the project. When the bids are in, Scott will talk with Julie D. to see if the project is affordable.

NEW BUSINESS

Plunkett inspection of DCHS buildings for post powder beetles: No post powder beetles were found in any of the DCHS buildings.

Narcotics Anonymous-Joel Tucker: Joel Tucker sent a letter to the DCHS Board requesting use of the seminary and possibly other buildings that are owned by the DCHS for Narcotics Anonymous meetings. The Seminary is owned by the County, not the DCHS so the board has no say in how it is used or by whom. There is a liability concern about allowing buildings to be used that are owned by the DCHS. Don S. made a motion to deny use of DCHS buildings due to liability issues. Bob P. seconded. Motion carried.

Wasioja Seminary: The County has made the DCHS caretaker of the seminary and grounds. Trees are creating issues with the structure. It is deteriorating rapidly because of no sunlight. The trees are dying from the inside out, also. The trees need to be removed and replaced with Black Hills Spruce. The trees are said to be symbolic of the men who did not return to Wasioja from the Civil War. According to Johnny K. the project will cost \$6,000. The project includes taking out the trees, stumps, roots, and replacing fill to plant new trees. The County is writing a proposal. The \$1,000 the county gave to the DCHS for the Seminary will be earmarked for this project. Johnny K. is writing a budget and what needs to be done, in stages.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Preserve Your Family History Workshop: Bob Herskovitz of the Minnesota Historical Society will present a workshop showing people how to preserve their family heirlooms. The workshop will be held. Saturday, October 11th at 1pm., at the Mantorville Opera House. It is free and open to the public.

Adjourn: Scott F. motioned the adjournment. Bob P. seconded. Motion carried.

