

**Dodge County Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2009**

Board Members Present: Sue Harwood, Bob Peterson, Vicki Peterson, Ron Ballstadt, Scott French, Dale Morris, Faye Richter, and Museum Director Earlene King. John Kvasnicka came in late at 7:08pm during the Committee Reports.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm at the DCHS Museum.

2. Visitors to Board - Mary Ann Bucher, Larry and Melanie Dobbs, Janice Borgstrom – Durst, Tom Gall, Thelma Givan, Jerianne Gonser, Clayton Luehmann, Glenn and Jan Luehmann, Mary Leonard, Lois Nash, and Joel Tucker. President Sue Harwood welcomed the visitors and requested that cell phones be turned off.

3. Additions and/or Amendments to Agenda

8.2 Technology Committee

8.4 Haunted House

9.4 Board member replacement

(*8.1.1) Update on court case with Julie deGroot – Jerianne Gonser, from the Dodge County Victim Services, addressed the board about the Omnibus Hearing for Julie deGroot on August 19, 2009. Julie deGroot had pled guilty to theft by swindle, and entry to that conviction will be staid for her probation period. She should be on probation for about ten years. Although Julie will not be convicted, the charges will still be on her record. The main focus of her probation will be of paying back the money that she has swindled from the Dodge County Historical Society. There will be a pre-sentence report on her that will include a victim impact statement, where the historical society, BOD, or an appointed person can talk to the probation officer or do a written letter about how her actions has effected us and to say what we would like to see happen. Julie deGroot has \$4800.00 in a trust account with her attorney that should be coming directly to the historical society. Sentencing should take place between four to six weeks. At the sentencing hearing the members of the historical society will be given an opportunity to make a statement to the judge if they so desire to do so, oral or written. Jerianne will be letting Sue Harwood know when the next court date will be and she will pass that on to the rest of the board.

John Kvasnicka made a motion to approve the additions and/or amendments to the agenda. Ron Ballstadt seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Approve Minutes – June 18, 2009 Meeting

The minutes reviewed by the board. Dale Morris made a motion to approve the minutes and Bob Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Treasurer's Report** – Bob Peterson reviewed the report. Bob reported that we have been working with Janice Borgstrom – Durst to get the 9-90 done and it should be done by August 26th. Ron Ballstadt made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Dale Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Museum Monthly Sales & Visitor Report** – Earlene King
Sue Harwood reviewed the report with the board. Sue made a special mention of the 866 people who came through the log cabin at the fair. Also Sue thanked all those who help with the log cabin this year.
7. **Wasioja presentation** – Jan Luehmann started her presentation by stating the reasons why the Wasioja Restoration Committee wants to become a committee under the DCHS umbrella. Some of the group's objectives are restoration and preservation of the DCHS buildings in Wasioja, to unite and promote a sense of community in Wasioja. Jan talked about the group using the church building for church services. Jan also told some of the history of Wasioja.
(*9.1) Wasioja Restoration Committee's request to be a DCHS committee – Ron Ballstadt requested to take the vote on the Wasioja Restoration Committee becoming part of the Dodge County Historical Society and made the motion. President Sue Harwood asked if there was any discussion. After some discussion, Vicki Peterson seconded the motion. There was some more discussion and concerns brought up. The vote was taken. "Ayes" Ron Ballstadt, Dale Morris, Bob Peterson and Vicki Peterson. "Nays" John Kvasnicka, and Faye Richter. "Declined" Scott French.
8. **Committee Reports**
 - 8.1 Update on legal process – Sue Harwood & Bob Peterson
 - 8.1.1 (See 3. Victim Services)
 - 8.1.2 Insurance Claim – Sue Harwood said that the insurance claim and a copy of the investigation report had been filled with MCIT. A claim was also filed with the Victim Services which included compensation for hours Sue Harwood had to take off from work, the bill from Janice Borgstrom – Durst, and the late fees on the 9-90 filing.
 - 8.2 Technology Committee – Tom Gall said that on the Website Committee there are currently two members, Mary Ann Bucher and Tom. Currently we have two different websites. Tom, as a committee member, suggested that we needed only one website. Julie deGroot had setup the second website, and the Technology Committee does not have the keys to it. Tom Gall said that they would check on the second website to see if they could get access to it and find out the cost of keeping it or not. Tom asked the board, as a website presence, is there a budget item for the website? There was some discussion about the cost of websites. Mary Ann Bucher said that she had sent a bill in June. Sue Harwood asked Mary Ann to send us a statement so we could pay her. Tom Gall also suggested that the Technology Committee meet once a month to do updating, ect. It was brought up

that there should be someone from the board to be on the Technology Committee. Vicki Peterson volunteered.

8.3 Music at the Museum fund raising event – Sue Harwood gave a brief report.

8.4 Haunted House – Ron Ballstadt gave an update on the Haunted House to be held on October 24th. Admission will be \$5.00 and will be open 6pm to 10pm. It will be at the old Mantorville grade school. It will cost \$250.00. John Kvasnicka made a motion to move forward with the Haunted House, including the cost of \$250.00. Bob Peterson seconded the motion. President Sue Harwood asked if there was any discussion. There was some discussion. Vote was taken and passed unanimously.

10. New Business

10.1 Janice Borgstrom-Durst, accountant information and recommendations – Janice gave an update on the tax return that she has been working on for the DCHS. She is still working on the information that is needed from the Friends of Wasioja from the time before they separated from the DCHS. Janice asked John Kvasnicka for additional information. John stated that after November 30, 2008, the Friends of Wasioja no longer used the DCHS 501c (3) number on their accounts and used their private social security numbers until they received their own 501c(3). Janice asked John to see the numbers that were used, accounts and the forms that were filed for end of November through December 2008 taxes. Janice stated that the DCHS owned, was responsible for and has to be accountable to the IRS for the money that the Wasioja Civil War Days Committee had in account in 2008, because they were still part of DCHS at that time. Janice then asked where in the DCHS BOD meeting minutes does it show what happened to the money that was in the Wasioja Civil War Days Committee's account and was the money donated to the Friends of Wasioja? The November 2008 meeting minutes was checked and there was no mention of the monies or of the monies being donated. Janice instructed the board that in order to donate the money to the Friends of Wasioja, there will have to be a vote of the board, for the exact amount as of the date they left the DCHS, as retro-spec to the November 2008 meeting. John Kvasnicka said that he would provide bank statements for the amount that was in the account up through November 20, 2008 by the next meeting so the board could vote on donating the money to the Friends of Wasioja.

9. Old Business

9.1 (See 7. Wasioja presentation)

9.2 Wasioja school windows – Sue Harwood gave an update. At the Wasioja Township board meeting, Sue had talked with them about the windows. The township board was in agreement with the plans of repair and said that they would get the bids for the work to be done. Also, even though they are only responsible for the lower level of the building, they voted to fix all the windows. They are also going to be checking the floor joist because of a bad spot in the floor where it dips down.

9.3 Seminary – Sue Harwood read a proposal letter to the Dodge County Board of Commissioners, for the DCHS to consider. The letter is asking the Board of Commissioners to resume responsibility for maintenance of the Seminary until after the 2011 Wasioja Civil War Days event. There was a discussion and the general consensus was that it would be better to continue taking care of and do the mowing of the Seminary Park. John Kvasnicka made the motion that the Wasioja Restoration Committee with the Friends of Wasioja, take on the care and maintenance of the Seminary Park as a co-project instead of sending the letter to the Board of Commissioners. Ron Ballstadt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9.4 Board member replacement – Because Julie deGroot is no longer a DCHS board member, there is a vacant spot on the board. There was some discussion as to whether or not there is a need to fill the position at this time. Dale Morris nominated Barb Gillard. After some discussion, John Kvasnicka nominated Tom Gall. It was brought up that we have new policies that the nominees need a chance to review and to fill out the applications. Vicki Peterson made the motion to table the replacement of the board member until the next meeting. John Kvasnicka seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. John Kvasnicka requested that the voting on the new board member be moved up to right after the treasurer's report.

Before the adjournment, Vicki Peterson brought up that she thought the next board meeting would be on September 24th and requested that the date be moved ahead to September 17th. Also the DCHS had received a donation letter from the Volunteer Fire Dept. Vicki asked the board if they thought the DCHS should buy a couple of tickets. It was discussed and agreed that we should not.

(I, Vicki Peterson, would like to apologize. The regular date for the next board meeting was September 17th and I am sorry for any confusion I might have caused.)

11. Adjourn – President Sue Harwood ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Kvasnicka so moved. Ron Ballstadt seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.