

Union County Historical Society
“Exploring Union County’s Past to Inform the Present and Future”
Board of Directors - Minutes
10 September 2020

Bruce Teeple called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with Phyllis Dyer, Barb Franck, Louise Knight, Jeff Reber, Eli Reiff, Darren Rhyne, Kathy Swope, Matt Wagner, and Financial & Programming Coordinator Dan Bower participating, thus constituting a quorum to conduct business.

Mary Kay Harper, Mike Molesevich, and ex officio members Conor Emery and Sarah Mahoney were unable to participate.

Secretary’s Report - The group unanimously agreed to a motion by Kathy and Jeff to accept the minutes from the July meeting of the Board of Directors.

Treasurer’s and Financial & Programming Coordinator’s Report

- Jeff urged Dan and Matt to apply for another round of grant money offered by the county.
- Matt and Mary Kay are also applying for a PHMC grant to county historical societies.
- On a motion by Kathy and Louise, the group unanimously agreed to Matt’s request, based on Mike’s earlier recommendation, to transfer auditing and tax reporting responsibilities from Brubaker’s to Doug Parker’s firm.

Archives and Collections

- Phyllis reported that she and Matt will begin working at DEW in October.
- On a motion by Kathy and Phyllis, the group unanimously approved paying Legacy Box \$1,020 to digitize forty Oral Traditions tape recordings.
- Matt added that local photographer John Gardner has offered to donate his entire collection, as well as the collection from the Ross Studios, to UCHS.

DEW

- On a motion by Barb and Kathy, the Board unanimously approved the DEW Committee’s report.

Finance

- On a motion by Jeff and Louise, the Board unanimously approved the 2021 Budget.
- On a motion by Matt and Eli, the Board unanimously agreed to accept the Finance Policies and Practices Statement with the following amendments:
Jeff: Change “risk averse” to “efficiently managing risks, with an emphasis on preserving assets.”

Membership

- Bruce reported that committee members have revised the Rack Card, the Donation Letter, and the Membership Renewal Letter. They will work on the Brochure this weekend.
- On a motion by Louise and Matt, the Board unanimously agreed to accept the Membership Committee’s report.
- Matt asked for the following changes to the text of the Donation Letter:

Move “Archives & Collections” to the top; move “Oral Traditions” from the “Research/Resources category” to the “Archives & Collections” category; and delete the “DEW House and Milne Cabin” category.

- Bruce also noted that the committee would like Board member to sign and send renewal reminders to delinquent members.

Outreach

- On a motion by Barb and Matt, the Board unanimously agreed to accept the Outreach Committee’s report.

Other Business

- Bruce announced that the Executive Committee will review and propose changes to staff job descriptions.
- Louise proposed forming a Development Committee, now that we all have a grasp of our financial situation. This committee will arrange to solicit estate gifts.
- On a related matter, Kathy suggested that appeals include mention of stretching large donations over three years rather than as one lump sum.
- She also suggested that UCHS consider placing a donor board outside the UCHS office in the courthouse.
- She will seek local funding advisers and asked that we discuss ways of raising revenue to meet budget expectations.
- On a motion by Matt and Eli, the Board unanimously adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Union County Historical Society interprets, presents, and promotes Union County’s rich and diverse history with responsible, respectful, and inclusive content; and

WHEREAS historians create balanced narratives that acknowledge and incorporate voices and perspectives previously ignored, forgotten, or deleted; and

WHEREAS the study of history involves re-examining and re-evaluating past events according to changing evidence; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union County Historical Society will strive to ensure that its publications, presentations, and programs are honest, balanced, relevant, and inclusive portrayals of the past within appropriate contexts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm our commitment to our educational mission: “Exploring Union County’s past to inform the present and future.”

We will post this on the UCHS website and disseminate among other interested parties.

- On a motion by Eli and Kathy, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: 10 November, 6:30 p.m.

