

Union County Historical Society
“Exploring Union County’s Past to Inform the Present and Future”
UCHS BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 4, 2024

Call to Order, Attendance, and Announcements

- The board meeting was held on the 1st floor of the North Water Street Gallery. With a quorum of members present, the meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.
- **Present:** Bruce Teeple, Phyllis Dyer, Matt Wagner, Susan Rapp, Darren Rhyne, Mike Molesevich, Christine Sperling,
- **Guest:** Robert Lee, “Privy Digger”
 - Robert is currently working for Mike and has excavated 50-100 bottles.
 - Robert is offering to display a portion of his extensive collection of bottles in the Gallery for a month or so.
 - Mike believes a privy dig in the courtyard would be an excellent fund raiser and educational event. Excavation and backfilling would also fix the large dip there.

Election of 2024 Board Officers

- Bruce conducted the election of officers.
- **Treasurer** – Mike nominated Phyllis Dyer for the office of Treasurer; seconded by Mike. PASSED unanimously.
- **Secretary** – Matt nominated Susan Rapp for the office of Secretary; seconded by Phyllis. PASSED unanimously.
- **Vice President** – Mike nominated Christine Sperling for the office of Vice President; seconded by Matt. PASSED unanimously.
- **President** – Darren nominated Bruce Teeple for the office of President; seconded by Mike. PASSED unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- Matt summarized the minutes of the November meeting. Christine motioned to accept the minutes as read; seconded by Phyllis. PASSED unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

- Phyllis submitted the report as follows:

Finance Committee

- **The Finance Committee will meet on January 18, 2024, at 4:00, in the Gallery to discuss the budget and the capital campaign.**

Archives & Collections

- Matt reported that the move of materials from the DEW House to the Gallery went well.
- Union and Snyder Counties’ Probation Offices supplied people to assist.
- We need to determine what items are in Manbeck’s barn and another barn at Buffalo Crossroads.
- **Archival Committee Meeting – to be announced soon!**

Development

- Christine reported that the Degenstein Foundation awarded UCHS \$1,710 to buy special hangers for the Gallery.
- She distributed a list of various grants available.
- The board then identified matching possible grants with specific projects.

Physical Plant

- Mike reported that the Gallery's heating system has been repaired. Because the complex's current heat source is a gas boiler in the Museum's basement, he recommended that each building have its own system.
- He reported that parking on the grass behind the Gallery is creating deep ruts. To resolve this, Mike has asked Gutelius to submit a proposal to deposit enough 2-RC stone there to create eight parking spaces.
- An electrician reported that all circuits in the Gallery are in good condition.
- Mike made a proposal for camera security.
- Christine offered to be the contact person if the alarm goes off.
- We need to have the DEW House thoroughly cleaned and reorganized. The board authorized Sue and Tony Shively to ask the Union and Snyder Counties' Probation Offices about recruiting offenders to assist in this project.

2024 Activities:

- Christkindl Dates for 2024 - December 12, 13, 14 (Thurs.–Sat.)
 - After considerable discussion and debate about keeping the venue, the board agreed to begin recruiting volunteers from the entire UCHS membership list. Only board members are currently doing the work.
- Bruce suggested creating a semi-permanent exhibit of Union County history with rotating topics in the South Gallery.

Additional Items:

- Bruce asked that we buy new banners for DEW and our venues, as well as flags to hang outside the Gallery and Museum. All will have our new logo, our name, and our mission statement.
- Christine suggested buying new tablecloths with the same information and with an attractive color to attract attention. She and Matt agreed to handle this project.
- Mike made a motion to split the \$400 cost with the Arts Council to buy an ice sculpture during the Ice Festival.
 - No second to the motion. Discussion tabled until next year when we are better organized to host public events.
- Mike asked for approval to replace current lights with LEDs at a cost of \$6,000. We will discuss this at the upcoming budget meeting.
- Recent emails from several students have expressed interest in internships with the society, but Matt is concerned because we can't afford to pay them. Phyllis explained that another organization, the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, is paying for our current intern, Marcos Colon. This is an oversight we need to correct immediately.

At 5:30 p.m., Matt motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Christine.

Next Board Meeting at the Gallery - February 1, 2024– 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rapp, Secretary