

JACKSONVILLE AREA MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
(HERITAGE CULTURAL CENTER)

February 1, 2024

The February board meeting was held at the Jacksonville Area Museum (Old Post Office) with a teleconferencing option available. The meeting was called to order at 5:18 p.m. by Vice-Chairman James Pisell. Those present included Dave Blanchette, Chad Boehlke, John Clancy, Lisa Hall, Diane Hollendonner, Jo Ann Nelson, and James Pisell, with Allan Worrell participating by phone. Absent were Patsy Erickson (Emeritus), Rebecca Houston, Kyla Hurt, Nick Little, Laura Marks, Brittany Henry (Ex-Officio), and Judy Tighe (Ex-Officio). Also present were Manager McKenna Servis and consultant Steven Varble.

The minutes of the January 4, 2024, board meeting were approved as distributed.

There was no official financial report, but McKenna reported that there were 61 visitors in January, one new museum membership, and a \$25,000 donation to the Jacksonville Area Museum Foundation from Bound to Stay Bound/Sibert Foundation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative: Nestle has expressed interest in hosting a luncheon and tour of the museum. Since available space is limited, Steve Varble suggested that the Convention & Visitors Bureau has rooms suitable for a luncheon, with the participants walking across the street to the museum afterwards. He also suggested that area organizations should be contacted to see if there is interest in a speaker to display the museum model and give an update on plans for the upcoming construction.

McKenna reported that Jo Ann Nelson had sprayed the lock on the back door and it works fine now. She is almost ready to order the Microsoft Suite 365.

Exhibits: The LEGO exhibit is still drawing visitors and will close on February 28, with the awards ceremony on March 2. The museum will close the week of March 3 for cleaning and construction of the JDC exhibit. The ferris wheel seat is completed and the photo backdrop is being printed.

Fundraising: David Blanchette has applied to Village of South Jacksonville for a \$9,000 tourism grant and will attend their board meeting that same evening to talk about it. The Back to Business grant was declined twice due to the need for updated paperwork but is now under re-review. The JAM Foundation expects to announce results of recent fundraising efforts in the next few weeks.

Building and Grounds: Scott Jess completed installing outlets and lighting. The electric power box is now full (expansions will be part of the Phase 2 renovations.). Nothing new on birds.

Collections: It was voted to add the following items to the museum collection: Boy Scout Troop 109 patches and correspondence about the creation of the Lincoln-Douglas Heritage Trail that went through Jacksonville (Sally Ineich); a WWII footlocker, patches and documents from the war, albums from Capitol Records, and lettermen jackets from JHS and Turner Junior High

(Bradley Mills); a Mrs. Tucker's margarine dish (Carolyn Bonjean); school records dating back to 1860 (Jacksonville District 117 Foundation); and a Letterman album (Jim Pisell).

Promotion: Steve Varble reported that no new podcasts had been added since November but the number of plays is now over 1000, with Judge J. David Bone coming in as the favorite with 97 plays. The next podcast to be added will be an interview with Jim and Pat Robson. Facebook and Instagram posts about the LEGO exhibit and Christmas received a lot of attention.

OLD BUSINESS: Blanchette reported that the bid package for the HVAC installation is very close to being completed. Steve Varble talked to Taylor Studios and recommended that they be contracted to advise on designing the exhibit space. He showed an example of the floor plan. The idea of featuring Stice Grocery Store as a central part of the exhibit space is now off the table and the museum will need to start searching for items suitable for display in that area. It was suggested that we focus on Schmalz Grocery since it was located on the downtown square and photos are available.

NEW BUSINESS: Organizing an event to recognize the fundraising goal and key people/donors will be discussed at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, 5:15 p.m., at the Jacksonville Area Museum, 301 E. State Street. A call-in option is available upon request.

With no further business or announcements to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hollendonner, Secretary

