

Whitman County Historical Society Board Meeting

April 19th, 2023 at the Chatters Print Museum – Meeting began at 7:09pm

Board members present: Carol Larsen, Janet Barstow, Val Gregory, Pat Flansburg, Donna Potts, Greg Partch, Denise Mahnkey, Kathy Meyer, Krista Boyd. Guests: John-Mark Mahnkey

Janet Barstow led the meeting in the absence of the President and Vice President. Janet stated that we needed to stick to the agenda to make the meetings run smoothly. If items are already addressed in the monthly report then we do not need to bring those up at the meeting. We do the monthly report to save time. Our meetings time should be used to discuss current projects or items that need to be voted on.

The consent agenda including, including the minutes, finance report and monthly reports were moved and seconded by Greg Partch and Donna Potts. The board approved.

Old Business: Volunteer of the Year – Six people have voted so far. Val will send out a reminder email if people missed the first one. Greg brought up that Executive Board members are not supposed to be nominated. Val couldn't find that rule in any of the past minutes. We will have this as a topic at the next meeting. Greg asked if his name be removed from the nomination at this time. But would like to be considered when he is off the board.

Old Mill Project Update- Greg has been working with the McCoy Valley Historical Society, Innovia, Avista and Mary Jane Butters. The Mill is up for sale for \$217,000. They have a donor who will give \$60,000 for the earnest money. Mary Jane said that if they come up with about \$150,000 then she would carry the remainder for a year. This would give the McCoy Valley group time to raise the rest of the funds. The McCoy Valley Historical Society has let their 501 c 3 lapse. They may need to use the Whitman County Historical Society as a fiscal sponsor if they can't get their non-profit status reinstated quickly. Since the Old Mill has significant historical importance to our County the board feels strongly that it should be saved. There used to be 11 mills in Whitman County and this is the last one standing. Denise made the motion to have the Whitman County Historical Society be the fiscal agent for the McCoy Valley Historical Society should they need it to be able to purchase the Old Mill in Oakesdale. The fiscal sponsorship could last up to 3 years with a fee rate to be determined depending on the amount of administrative assistance required. Kathy and Donna moved and seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the board.

New Business: Purchase of an Epson Perfection V850 Pro scanner for the archive. A donor gave \$1000 for us to get our photos digitized and online. The cost of the scanner is \$1400 with tax and shipping. Val and Alex are going to partner with the Whitman County Library to get our photos on the Washington State Rural Heritage website. Our name will be tagged on the photos. This is a less expensive way to get our photos out to the public at this time. Greg made a motion to purchase the scanner for the archive. Donna and Kathy moved and seconded. The board approved the motion.

Items from the Board: Greg brought extra copies of Wheat Life. There is a nice article about the Palouse Museum and Janet. There is a meeting at the Palouse Museum tomorrow night to discuss saving the St. Elmo Hotel in Palouse. The dedication ceremony is at the Colfax Cemetery on Monday, May 29 at 11am. The Depot Quilt Show starts this weekend. Palouse People and Book talks will be taking place at the depot. Some of the talks are moved to the waiting room area instead of the freight room. There is a list of the events at thepullmandepot.com

The next meeting is **May 17 at the Depot**. The executive board and steering committee will meet at 6 p.m. followed by the regular board meeting at 7.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Minutes taken by: Valoree Gregory