

The Working Men's Institute Board of Trustees met on February 15, 2024

President Fred Frayser called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were President Fred Frayser, Vice President Nathan Maudlin, Treasurer Tamara Allison, Secretary Christine Crews, Trustee Connie Weinzapfel, Director Ryan Rokicki, Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap, and Friends of the WMI President Jeanne Maudlin.

Minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting had been sent electronically. Connie Weinzapfel made the motion to amend the minutes as presented. Tamara Allison seconded. Approved.

Tamara Allison then presented the Treasurer's Report. Nathan Maudlin moved to accept and hold for audit. Connie Weinzapfel seconded. Approved. Since the Roof Restoration Project has been completed, Ryan requested that the Roof Project savings account at 5/3 Bank revert back to its purpose as a back-up account for overdraft protection. Nathan Maudlin made the motion to redesignate this account the Auxiliary savings account. Tamara Allison seconded. Approved.

FWMI-

- We have purchased 60 pairs of eclipse glasses. 40 pairs will be given out at the Carlisle Wishard lecture on March 27th.
- Eric Janik will be building a rectangular pad with concrete pavers that match the sidewalk. This will be utilized for the storage of the trash bin.

In Old Business-

- Property at West and Steammill Streets-Mr. Frayser received and signed a purchase agreement from Aaron Wilson. We received that agreement back with a counteroffer. At this time, we have chosen not to move forward with this purchase but will keep it as a future investment idea.
- Bob Johnson Trust-The trust is nearing completion. A meeting at the University of Evansville is being planned for February 28, 2024, for the distribution of funds.

In New Business-

- Virtual Meeting Requirements- Connie Weinzapfel made the motion that the WMI recommit to following the State of Indiana rules for Virtual Meetings as trustees of a public institution. Nathan Maudlin seconded. Approved.
- Deaccession of a museum artifact-The *Battle of Atlanta* McCormick advertising lithograph was recently found in the attic by Melora Adams. This piece from the 1880s is in poor condition and has an unclear provenance. (The lithograph was displayed for the Trustees at time.) Ryan convened the Collections Committee on 2/13 and recommended that the item be deaccessioned and disposed of. The committee (Melora, Linda Warrum,

Marlene Huffaker, and Connie Weinzapfel) being in agreement with Ryan's recommendation, the issue was then brought to the Trustees. Nathan Maudlin made the motion to deaccession and dispose of the *Battle of Atlanta* lithograph committee's request. Tamara Allison seconded. Approved.

Director's Report (see attached)

Mr. Rokicki then presented the claims. Nathan Maudlin made the motion to accept the claims. Christine Crews seconded. Approved.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Director's Report-February 15, 2024

Kiwanis Story Time took place on Thursday, January 25th at 6:30 p.m. Ann Rains read her book *Millie's Missing Egg*. Seven children were in attendance. The next Kiwanis Story Time will be on February 22. Tamara Allison will be reading *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* by Robert Frost.

Take Zalal, Outreach Conservator from Northeast Document Conservation Center, was here on February 6 to speak to us about the Center's services.

The Eykamp String Quartet held a concert at the WMI on February 8. Over 100 patrons were in attendance. We hope to host other performances of the Evansville Philharmonic in the future.

We would like to thank Mike Axton, Gary Barnes, and Dan Busler for helping the WMI Staff set up our new STEM area.

Andy Batt will host "How to Photograph and Enjoy the Solar Eclipse" at the WMI on Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. He will provide tips for capturing shots of the eclipse using iPhones, Androids, and professional gear. Examples will be provided.

I met with Diane Sanders from Historic New Harmony regarding an idea she had about a possible tour during the eclipse.

Thursday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. Tristra Newyear will be having a discussion and book signing about her new science fiction and utopia specifically concerning her book series *Starfall* which takes place in New Harmony. Tristra is one of the 2023 recipients of the Lena Feiner Grant. She has reported that her podcast should debut in June.

Archives update: Glen Kalley from Patterson-Pope met with Melora and I via Zoom on February 8. He is excited about our archives project and is committed to helping with this expansion. Our recent calculations of the framed objects are 549.2 sq. feet and adding 50% would require 823.8 sq. feet. Furniture, long objects, and natural history objects are next to be calculated.

Website update: Allen came and filmed updated video content on January 25. These included videos of Kiwanis Story Time, Patty Beagle's yoga class, and some young adults enjoying WMI services. Melora, Shannon and I have a Zoom meeting with Deanna Heuser on Monday at 10:00 a.m.

We are finishing the Annual Library Report that is due Feb 29.

On February 22, 2024, Black Lodge Coffee Roasters will begin "Coffee Talks" twice a month.

Heritage Days are set for April 24, 25, and 26. I will be asking for extra docents for those days.