

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting~ April 27, 2021

Dan Busler called the Membership Meeting to order. Twenty (20) active members answered roll call.

Minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting were distributed prior to this evening's meeting. Jan Kahle moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mike Axton seconded. Approved.

Trustees' minutes were distributed. A motion to suspend the reading of the minutes was made by Jan Kahle. Mike Axton seconded. Accepted.

Connie Weinzapfel presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and hold for audit was made by Christine Crews. Charles Huck seconded. Accepted.

Secretary's Report ~ dispensed at this time.

FWMI Report was given by Christine Crews. Due to the Pandemic, we were unable to continue with our 2020 Lecture Series. These lectures will be held in 2021. Our keynote speaker for this year's Independence Day celebration will be Abigail Owen-Pontez. I will let Shannon know the dates of the events.

Long-range Planning and Special Projects Committee Report ~ Connie Weinzapfel reported that the Long-range plan was updated February 5, 2020 but due to the COVID-19 Pandemic was unable to report on the update. The Long-range plan is broken into three groups: library, archives, museum. Some of the goals of the library are to always address the digital divide. We want to continue to replace older computers, add a device charging station, expand programming for all ages and continue to offer e-books. The Archive is an ongoing project. We have great volunteers. We want to continue the organization of the storage area by having the latest materials and organizational tools available that will help make the items in our collection more assessable. This would include digitization and internet availability of these items. We, again, want to employ the correct materials and organizational tools in the museum as well. This will be an ongoing project as well. The four main rooms within the facility have all been renovated. We are repairing the roof and that will be addressed in this evening's meeting. We would like to have the fence and the sidewalks repaired in the future. We have had a tree assessment done. Ryan is working getting someone to have them pruned.

Special Projects ~ Adam Green presented his plans for the Roof Restoration Project. We have put together drawings. These drawings are just one part of the bid packet that will go out to potential general contractors and roofers. In addition to these drawings, there will be an invitation to bid which will include specifications. The goal is to get at least three qualified bids from contractors with very tight comparisons. Having these drawings will help with this process. The deadline for bids is June. We should have bids back by July. In August, we hope to be in negotiations with these contractors. September would be the target month to begin the preparations of the building. The bulk of the construction would then be October through December.

Nathan Maudlin then discussed the financials for the project. It was suggested that they ask the town board for a donation towards the Roof Restoration Project.

Membership ~ None

Old Business ~ none

New Business ~

Director's Report ~ In October, I delivered the Eight-Legged Calf to Gaston Wildlife Art in Minnesota. Tom Guggenheim did an assessment on our trees. He did recommend that one of our trees on the west side of the building be cut down. Jim Brown has removed the tree as recommended by Mr. Guggenheim. I attended the Indiana Library Federation Conference on November 17-18, 2020. This year it was a virtual event. Our "12 Stories of Christmas" Facebook event launched in November. We had 12 volunteers read a different Christmas story with the final story occurring on Christmas Eve. We had 6132 adults 667 children come to the WMI last year. The numbers were down due to the pandemic. I, along with the staff, have completed the Annual Library Report. The State Board of Accounts report was completed as well. Work is continuing on the staff bathroom. Jim Naas has finished the drywall and is now refinishing the floor. We received notice earlier this week that our Payroll Protection Program loan has been forgiven and paid in full. I submitted a preliminary proposal to the Indiana Historical Society for a heritage support grant asking for \$30,000 continued funding for our collection management activities. We received word last week the proposal has been approved and we have been invited to submit a full grant proposal. HF Refrigeration has turned on our air conditioning. The virtual program "The Grotesque 10" presented by Mathew Duman had 6 participants. We would like to thank Mr. Duman for his time to give this very intriguing program. HF Refrigeration has turned on our air conditioning. The Farmer's Market presented by the WMI began Saturday April 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Our summer reading program Tales and Tails is being planned. It will be beginning the last week of June and run until the first week of August. The WMI mourns the loss of our honorary member, Ron Richards. Over the years Mr. Richards and his team conducted research here at the WMI. He passed on March 26, 2021. His death is an incredible loss for family, friends, colleagues, and the scientific community.

With no other business, Ted Moore moved to adjourn the meeting.

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting~ July 20, 2021

Dan Busler called the Membership Meeting to order. Sixteen (16) active members answered roll call.

Minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting were distributed prior to this evening's meeting. Jan Kahle moved to accept the minutes as presented. Tom Cochran seconded. Approved.

Fred Frayser's report included a review of all projects during the past decade that were funded, either wholly or in part, by interest and dividend income from the WMI's investments. Mr. Frayser also detailed the proper procedures that are in place for using those funds. His report concluded with a review of the dates and times for the WMI's meetings and a brief summary of the ongoing fundraising for the roof replacement project.

Fred Frayser then presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and hold for audit was made by Mike Axton. Tom Cochran seconded. Accepted.

Secretary's Report ~ none

FWMI Report was given by Jeanne Maudlin.

Committee Report:

Personnel-None

Long-range planning-None

Special Projects-None

Membership- Dan Busler read aloud from the by-laws due to so many members missing meetings. The Covid-19 pandemic cancelled all membership meetings over the course of the last year. Tom Stahl made a motion to reset the count of missed meetings for each member starting with the April 27, 2021 meeting. Tom Cochran seconded. Approved. A letter informing all members of the by-laws regarding attendance will be sent out to each member as well.

Old Business ~ none

New Business ~ Fred Frayser presented the Resolution of Respect for honorary member Ron Richards. Nathan Maudlin made the motion to accept the Resolution. Jan Kahle seconded. Approved.

Director's Report ~

- We were very fortunate to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Efroymsen Family Fund to honor Lena Feiner. The Arlene Feiner Memorial Research Grant for Women's Studies has been established. This year's grant recipient is New Harmony resident Karen Moser.
- We have received eight sections of fence from Historic New Harmony. Chris Koester placed it in the basement for storage.
- The annual two week Curatorial Outreach from the Indiana State Museum wrapped up in June. As Mr. Frayser said, this is the first year without Ron Richards. Peggy Fisherkeller is now leading that project with Randy and Deb Patrick continuing on in their roles.
- Filmmaker Daniel Ross was here filming a documentary on utopian communities. He interviewed Linda Warrum and Marlene Huffaker. The WMI certainly has a presence in this next installment of New Harmony history.
- We are glad to be hosting events again here at the WMI. The New Harmony Farmer's Market presented by the WMI is doing quite well. Over the last three months we have had 1,800 visitors here at the WMI.
- Our Summer reading program Tales and Tails began on July 1, 2021. The first week we had four children. The last two weeks we have held steady with ten children each.
- The New Harmony Music School used the WMI on July 7, 2021 for two pop-up concerts and a movie. Both events were well attended.
- Jim Naas has completed the staff bathroom.
- The Indiana Historical Society has awarded the WMI a Heritage Support Grant for \$15,000. That is to support the collection manager's position that Melora Adams currently fills.

- Our Annual Library Report has been reviewed by the Indiana State Library and we are in compliance.

With no other business, Charles Huck moved to adjourn the meeting.

Next Meeting: October 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Working Men's Institute Members Meeting~ October 19, 2021

Fred Frayser called the budget adoption meeting to order. No patrons were in attendance. Our operating budget figure for 2022 is \$269,800. Charles Huck made the motion to accept the budget of \$269,800. Jan Kahle seconded. Approved. The budget adoption meeting was then adjourned.

Dan Busler called the Membership Meeting to order. Sixteen (16) active members answered roll call.

Minutes of the July 20, 2021 Membership meeting were distributed prior to this evening's meeting. Jan Kahle moved to suspend the reading of the membership minutes and accept as presented. Diana Davis seconded. Approved.

Tom Cullum made a motion to suspend the reading of the Board of Trustees' minutes and accept them as presented. Christine Crews seconded. Approved.

Fred Frayser reported that the last few months have been busy with the Roof Restoration Project. We received the funds from Indiana Landmarks preservation fund for \$50,000. We have another \$50,000 that has been approved but the money will not be released until the project is complete. The Efroymsen Family Fund \$50,000 challenge match is still about \$7,000 short. Connie and Ryan met with Smither Roofing representative Russ Love via Zoom last week. They will be potentially setting up in late February or early March to begin the restoration of the roof. There will be samples of the slate at the reception that will be held October 29, 2021 at the WMI.

We have received a new sculpture here at the WMI, a gift from Dr. and Mrs. George Rapp. It resides on the southwest lawn. It was made by Patrick McDonald.

Fred Frayser presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and hold for audit was made by Nathan Maudlin. Mike Axton seconded. Accepted.

Secretary's Report ~ none

FWMI Report was given by Jeanne Maudlin.

WMI Committee Reports:

Personnel-None

Long-Range Planning-None

Special Projects-None

Membership- None

Old Business ~ none

New Business ~The slate for officers for 2022 was presented: President Fred Frayser, Vice President Nathan Maudlin, Treasurer Connie Weinzapfel, Secretary Tom Cullum, Trustee

Tamara Allison, and Speaker Dan Busler. There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed. The 2022 slate of officers was approved.

Director's Report ~

- We have made a return to in person events in the past few months. Our Summer Reading Program began on July 5, 2021. We had forty children over the course of six weeks.
- The Farmer's Market is going strong. We have had weekends with four hundred people attending.
- The New Harmony Music Festival and School held their annual music festival July 7-11, 2021. The WMI hosted two pop-up concerts and a movie. We had about thirty people per event.
- The New Harmony Dulcimer company held a concert at the WMI on August 8 and 9, 2021. There were 25 people in attendance on the 8th and 30 on the 9th.
- Bill Clevelin was here September 11, 2021 promoting his new book "Finding the American Dream." There were ten patrons in attendance. A big thank you to Ken and Peggy Meyer for organizing this event.
- Archaeologist Mike Strezweski presented "An Excellent House of Private Entertainment" on September 15, 2021. This presentation, as well as others, are available on DVD that can be checked out in our library, as well as on YouTube.
- A big thanks to the FWMI for their book sale. We want to thank all the volunteers that helped get that set up.
- The Kiwanis has received funding through the Efroymsen Family Fund to develop a "Story Time" for children here at the WMI. So far for October we have 23 children signed up.
- Our annual Library Report has been reviewed by the Indiana State Library and we are in compliance with the Indiana state regulations regarding libraries.
- The Eight-Legged Calf has been out of the museum for the last year. Last month I made a trip to Minneapolis, MN and retrieved the calf from Gaston's Wildlife Art. This was the most difficult specimen on which they have ever worked. Robert Ratcliff is constructing a display case for this specimen. It will go back on display soon.

With no other business, Ted Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Next Meeting: January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

