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# **BOT Meeting Minutes**

January 15, 2025

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## **Call to Order**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Working Men's Institute was held on January 15, 2025. Attendees included Vice-President Nathan Maudlin via Zoom, Treasurer Tamara Allison, Secretary Christine Crews, Director Ryan Rokicki, Circulation Specialist Shannon DeLap, and Archive Expansion Project Manager Jan Kahle. Those not in attendance included President Fred Frayser, and Trustee Connie Weinzapfel.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the December 18, 2025 meeting were sent electronically. Tamara Allison made a motion to approve the minutes. Christine Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Tamara Allison then presented the Treasurer's Report. Christine Crews moved to accept and hold for audit, which Tamara Allison seconded. The motion carried.

## **Friends of the WMI**

Christine Crews reported that the 2026 Lecture Series has been finalized, and the Newsletter will be sent out soon.

## **Old Business**

**Archive Expansion Update** – Project Manager Jan Kahle reported that they had a productive meeting with JGA on Friday, January 9, 2026. During this meeting, they discussed various donation opportunities and how to further support these initiatives. The goal is to cultivate between twenty and thirty donors to potentially raise five million dollars (\$5,000,000).

Ryan inquired about Ted Grossnickle's relationship with WMI. Mr. Grossnickle expressed his desire to maintain this relationship and recommended that WMI reach out to Lilly Endowment, Inc., for funding to conduct a feasibility study.

We will be holding a committee meeting to discuss strategies for approaching potential donors. The donors we are considering include the Efroymsen Family Fund, the Community Foundation Alliance, Richard A. & Ann Zehner Angle Fund, Harmonie Associates, Lilly Endowment, Inc., and the Kent and Laurie Parker Family Foundation.

**Owen/Maclure 200th** – We have three exciting events lined up. The first will take place on January 24 at 2:00 p.m., featuring Dr. Gerald Gutek, who will present *The Boatload of Knowledge at 200*. Following that, on February 11 at 6:30 p.m., Rod Clark will present *The Places That Shaped Robert Owens' Vision*. Finally, on March 18 at 6:30 p.m., Dr. Greg Brown from USI will speak about William Maclure. Mark your calendars for these informative sessions!

**Audio/ Visual Equipment update**- Midwest Systems prepared an estimate for upgrades totaling \$34,000. WMI Member Michael Guard reviewed the estimate and stated there were several things included that were not requested. We had initially requested four microphones, and the estimate only included one.

## **No New Business**

### Director's Report

#### Program Highlights

- The Kiwanis Story Time Event was held on Thursday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m., featuring Jean Kares reading *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg to eight children.
- On January 14, Ben Angel conducted a presentation on Natural Gardening with a focus on Hugelkultur, attracting an audience of twenty-five attendees.

#### Facilities and Maintenance

- Jim Naas visited and completed repairs on a faucet located at the back of the building.
- The staff would like to express their appreciation to the Janik family for their efforts in removing the holiday décor.

#### Staff and Administration

- We are working on the end-of-year reports.
- Shannon is currently conducting a winter weeding of our DVD collection. We will be removing 75% of the titles to create space for our new "Library of Stuff." This adjustment is aimed at better aligning our offerings with the evolving needs of our patrons.
- Steven Stump has announced an adjustment to his pricing for recording events, with an increase of \$100 to his fee.

## Upcoming Events

- January 20-7:00 p.m.- Membership Meeting
- January 22-6:30 p.m.-Kiwaniis Storytime- Grace Davis will read *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin.
- January 24-2:00 p.m.- Dr. Gerald Gutek-*The Boatload of Knowledge at 200*.
- February 11-6:30 p.m.- Rod Clark-*The Places That Shaped Robert Owens' Vision*.

## Claims

Mr. Rokicki presented the claims. Christine Crews moved to accept the claims, and Tamara Allison seconded. The motion carried.

## Adjournment