

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
Cultural Heritage Center  
Pierre, South Dakota  
April 22, 2021

Call to Order

The meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees was called to order by President Brad Tennant on April 22, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., in the Vogt Education Room of the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, South Dakota; which included board members, staff, and public participation virtually by Zoom. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present

Sean J. Flynn, John D. Fowler, Tom Hurlbert, Laurie Langland, Jon Lauck, Peggy Sanders, Brian Sandvig, Rolene R. Schliesman, Brad Tennant, Francis Whitebird, and Jennifer R. Winter.

Board Member Not Present

David A. Wolff

State Historical Society Staff Present

Benjamin F. Jones, Chelle Somsen, Dedra McDonald Birzer, Renee Boen, Jay Smith, Ted Spencer, Liz Almlie, Heather Mulliner, Katie Wasley, Chris B. Nelson, Sarah Dozier, Catherine Forsch and Caroline C. Uecker.

Others Present

Bill Dendinger and Anna Christensen of Vermillion.

Welcome and Announcements

President Brad Tennant welcomed the members of the board, staff of the South Dakota State Historical Society, and guests.

Dedra McDonald Birzer introduced Sarah Dozier, newly hired accounting/office assistant for the Research and Publishing Office.

Board Minutes

Minutes of the Board of Trustees' meeting of December 11, 2020 were emailed to the members of the Board of Trustees after the meeting. A MOTION TO APPROVE the minutes of December 11, 2020 was made by Sean Flynn and seconded by John Fowler. Motion prevailed unanimously on a roll call vote with 9 ayes. Members voting aye: Flynn, Fowler, Hurlbert, Langland, Lauck, Sanders, Sandvig, Schliesman, and Tennant.

Board members Francis Whitebird and Jennifer Winter were not in attendance to vote on the board minutes. Whitebird arrived at 1:20 p.m. and Winter arrived at 1:10 p.m.

Public Comment

Tennant asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

## State Review Board

The State Review Board convened at 1:05 p.m.

National Register Nominations

State Historic Preservation Office staff presented two nominations for review.

Presented by Heather Mulliner:

- 1) Lead Historic District 2021 Amendment (Boundary Decrease/Increase), Lead, Lawrence County.  
The Lead Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The Lead Historic District 2021 Amendment revises the original 1974 nomination. It assigns contributing and non-contributing statuses to the approximately 870 properties in the district, clarifies the boundary, and updates all sections of the nomination. A MOTION WAS MADE by Brian Sandvig and seconded by Sean Flynn to recommend the approval of the nomination of the Lead Historic District 2021 Amendment (Boundary Decrease/Increase) to the National Register of Historic Places. Motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 10 ayes. Members voting aye: Flynn, Fowler, Hurlbert, Langland, Lauck, Sandvig, Schliesman, Tennant, Whitebird, and Winter. Member voting nay: Sanders.

Presented by Liz Almlie:

- 2) First Congregational Church, Vermillion, Clay County.  
The First Congregational Church, built in 1928, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the state level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its Colonial Revival architecture. A MOTION WAS MADE by Jon Lauck and seconded by Sean Flynn to recommend the approval of the nomination of the First Congregational Church, to include the statewide comparison, to the National Register of Historic Places. Motion prevailed unanimously on a roll call vote with 11 ayes. Members voting aye: Flynn, Fowler, Hurlbert, Langland, Lauck, Sanders, Sandvig, Schliesman, Tennant, Whitebird, and Winter.  
Bill Dendinger, Vermillion Historic Preservation Commission member and Anna Christensen, Chair of the United Congregational Church of Christ Board of Trustees, were available to answer any questions. They both commented in support of the nomination.

The state review board adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

## Reports

Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D., State Historian and Director of the South Dakota State Historical Society submitted his written report. (Attachment #1). Jones gave an overview of what he had in his written report and answered questions pertaining to #4 in his written report regarding South Dakota History and the Civics initiative.

Renee Boen, State Archaeologist, submitted her report. (Attachment #2). Boen had several additions to her written report to include:

- Archaeology crew working on the expansion of the Palisades State Park testing sites, Garretson area.
- Crews working on projects by Sturgis and Highmore for the DOT. They also went to Hot Springs April 20 to document the outside of the historic building that they want to tear down on the north end of main street. The DOT requested that Archaeology staff take current photos of the outside only (too dangerous to go inside) and update the existing SHPO structure form.
- Roger Williams is retiring June 8. Daniel Byrne is retiring April 30. They have one new hire who accepted the position of Archaeologist, planning to start May 10. Working on second hire.
- LiDAR grant: Letters were sent out to landowners, getting ready to start in the field in May.
- Big Sioux River Valley chapter: deadline extension to May 14, work continues.
- 1972 Flood project: research has started.

- Burial Mound National Register nomination project: contract signed but have not started.
- USACE human remains: transferred to the Corps of Engineers for consultation/repatriation. The Archaeology Office does not track this information because they are not responsible for remains from federal lands; they only assist with certain tasks, such as inventory and documentation.
- Printing tool stone guide in May.
- Unpacking collections finished, need to finish organizing the comparative lab this summer.
- Boen answered questions about the deaccession process.

Chelle Somsen, State Archivist, submitted the Archives report. (Attachment #3). In addition to Somsen's written report she mentioned that digitizing and cataloging suffrage-related boxes of the John and Alice Pickler papers are almost done. She reported that her office received funding of \$109,000 for a large software purchase to benefit the Electronics Records Program.

Ted Spencer, Director of the Historic Preservation Office, submitted his report. (Attachment #4). Spencer answered questions about the Annual Fourth Grade Essay Contest his office sponsored to promote historic preservation. The trustees reported to Spencer that they remain concerned about the City of Deadwood's grant allocations.

Jay Smith, Museum Director, submitted his report. (Attachment #5). In addition to Smith's written report he mentioned that the museum staff are hosting, as well as on the agenda as presenters, for the Annual Mountain Plains Museum Association Conference scheduled October 5-8, 2021 in Sioux Falls.

Dedra McDonald Birzer, Ph.D., Director of Research and Publishing and editor-in-chief of the South Dakota Historical Society Press, submitted her report. (Attachment #6). Birzer had several additions to her written report, to include:

- Sales are steady for the illustrated children's book *Charlie Russell and the Gnomes of Bullhead Lodge* and the Press has had a glowing review from the western art curator at the Buffalo Bill Center. Preorders are now available for both *Savior of Deadwood* and *Custer* (both to be released in May).
- The artwork from *Charlie Russell and the Gnomes of Bullhead Lodge* will be on exhibit in the Vogt Education Room starting in May.
- The Foundation's Heritage and History Book Club on May 13 will feature Jay D. Vogt and his book, *Picturing the Past: South Dakota's Historic Places*. It will be a hybrid event, with Vogt speaking in public in the Vogt Education Room to an in-person audience, maximum of 15, and on Zoom at the same time. Cody Ewert will host the in-person segment and Birzer will host the Zoom segment. Social media posts with reservation information will go out soon.
- The Press fourth Thursday new blog went live April 22, written by Tony Venhuizen on how he got his hands-on Governor Bulow's autobiography. This is part of promoting the Spring issue of *South Dakota History*, which arrived in mailboxes last week.
- The Press hosted a Zoom presentation on Grace Ingalls Dow, youngest sister of Laura Ingalls Wilder, on April 9. This was in fulfillment of a SDHC/NEH grant for which the Press serves as a sponsor. Almost 200 people tuned in and the presentation is now available for streaming.

Catherine Forsch, CEO of the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, submitted her report. (Attachment #7). Forsch mentioned she had a few items to report in addition to her written report. She reported that Dr. Laurie Nichols is hosting a small fundraising event April 29 to honor the pioneering women of BHSU on the Her Vote. Her Voice. (HVHV) honor wall. The next direction for HVHV is a campaign, "Know Her Name. Know Her Story." Statewide media partners will run the campaign through 2021. In March, Women's History Month, the Foundation sponsored a "Know Her Name" Art & Essay Contest for 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Winners are being notified.

Old Business – No old business.

New Business

Ted Spencer reported that Katie Wasley was promoted from Historic Preservation Assistant to the Historic Preservation Specialist position vacated by Sofia Mattesini.

Jon Lauck exited the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Four projects were recommended to the board for approval for Deadwood Fund grants. (Attachment #8). A MOTION WAS MADE by Sean Flynn and seconded by Francis Whitebird to approve the recommended grants to the Pierre United Methodist Church, Pierre (\$13,000); Fort Sisseton, Britton (\$12,000); Fargo Mercantile, Hot Springs (\$16,050); and St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Mitchell (\$15,000). Motion prevailed unanimously on a roll call vote with 10 ayes. Members voting aye: Flynn, Fowler, Hurlbert, Langland, Sanders, Sandvig, Schliesman, Tennant, Whitebird, and Winter.

The Board of Trustees indicated that they would like to focus on providing more historic preservation support and opportunities for buildings across the state and requested that this be put on the agenda for the next trustees meeting. The next meeting is scheduled Friday, June 18.

Museum Director Jay Smith presented a Record of Deaccession request. (Attachment #9). A MOTION WAS MADE by Brian Sandvig and seconded by Sean Flynn, to approve Accession Number 1985.030 as presented. Motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 9 ayes. Members voting aye: Flynn, Hurlbert, Langland, Sanders, Sandvig, Schliesman, Tennant, Whitebird, and Winter. Member voting nay: Fowler. This deaccession pertains to a fire extinguisher of a chemical type, which is a serious risk not only to the objects in the museum's collection but to the health and safety of staff and visitors. This risk is due to the object containing a large amount of the chemical carbon tetrachloride which is very hazardous to human health.

Board President Tennant reported that at the next Board of Trustees meeting June 18, the Nominating Committee will be nominating Sean Flynn as board president and Tom Hurlbert as vice president to serve a two-year term. Current President Tennant and Vice-President Wolff have served in these capacities since 2008.

Other Business

Society State Historian and Director Benjamin F. Jones commended long-time board assistant Caroline C. Uecker for her service to the Board of Trustees and the Society. She will be retiring June 8 after 34 years of service in state government. Uecker began working for the Society February 9, 2007.

Jay Smith reported that there are currently 110 attendees registered for the Annual History Conference scheduled for April 23-24. The conference theme, "South Dakota Icons," featuring well-known people, places, and things in our state, will be a virtual Zoom event. Smith answered questions regarding the conference.

Society State Historian and Director Jones reported that the Society recognized several individuals with 2021 Governor's Awards for History for their efforts in preserving state history. The award winners include Nancy Tystad Koupal and Jay D. Vogt for the prestigious Robinson Memorial Award; Larry Belitz of Hot Springs, John Mollison of Sioux Falls and Wayne Fanebust of Sioux Falls in the individual category; Scott Tubbs of Rapid City as History Teacher of the Year; and Philip Burnham of Albuquerque, New Mexico, with the Herbert S. Schell Award. Jones reported that Rolene Schliesman and Peggy Sanders were re-elected to the Board of Trustees for another three-year term and mentioned that Governor Noem has not made her appointments to the board yet.


Recommendations for Certificates of Recognition were presented. (Attachment 10). A MOTION WAS MADE by Sean Flynn and seconded by Francis Whitebird, to award certificates of recognition to the individuals presented. Motion prevailed unanimously on a roll call vote with 10 ayes. Members voting aye: Flynn, Fowler, Hurlbert, Langland, Sanders, Sandvig, Schliesman, Tennant, Whitebird, and Winter.

The next meeting will be Friday, June 18, 2021 beginning at 1:00 p.m. and will include a presentation of the Draft Strategic Plan.

There was no executive session.

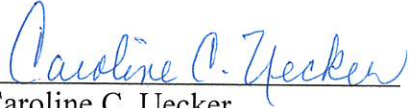
President Tennant adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 3:45 p.m.

I, Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D., State Historian and Director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, declare that these minutes are a true and accurate reflection of the business conducted at the April 22, 2021 meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees.



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Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D.  
State Historian and Director  
South Dakota State Historical Society



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Caroline C. Uecker  
Administrative Assistant