

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Cultural Heritage Center
Pierre, South Dakota
June 18, 2021

Call to Order

The meeting of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees was called to order by Vice-President David Wolff on June 18, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. CDT (12:00 p.m. MDT), 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

Marshall Damgaard, Sean Flynn, John Fowler, Thomas Hurlbert, Laurie Langland, Brian Sandvig, Rolene Schliesman, Jennifer Winter, and David Wolff.

Board Member Not Present

Billie Kingfisher Jr., Peggy Sanders, and Brad Tennant

State Historical Society Staff Present

Benjamin F. Jones, Chelle Somsen, Dedra McDonald Birzer, Renee Boen, Jay Smith, Ted Spencer, Catherine Forsch, and Jeff Mammenga and Megan Fast.

Others Present

Bob Mercer from KELO.

Welcome and Announcements

David Wolff welcomed the members of the board, staff of the South Dakota State Historical Society, and guests.

State Historical Society Director Benjamin Jones introduced Megan Fast, newly hired Administrative Assistant for the South Dakota State Historical Society.

David Wolff then called for the Election of Officers under New Business to be moved to the top of the agenda. A MOTION TO APPROVE Sean Flynn as new Trustees President and Thomas Hurlbert as Vice-President was made by Brian Sandvig and seconded by Jennifer Winter. Motion prevailed unanimously on a roll call vote with 7 ayes and 2 abstaining. Members voting aye: Damgaard, Fowler, Langland, Sandvig, Schliesman, Winter, and Wolff. Members abstaining: Flynn and Hurlbert.

Board Minutes

Minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting of April 22, 2021 were emailed to the members of the Board of Trustees after that meeting. A MOTION TO APPROVE the minutes of April 22, 2021 was made by John Fowler and seconded by Jennifer Winter. Motion prevailed unanimously on a roll call vote with 8 ayes and 1 abstaining. Members voting aye: Damgaard, Flynn, Fowler, Hurlbert, Langland, Sandvig, Schliesman, and Winter. Member abstaining: Wolff.

Public Comment

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

State Review Board

None

Reports

Benjamin F. Jones, Ph.D., State Historian and Director of the South Dakota State Historical Society submitted his written report. (Attachment #1). Jones spoke on going back to normal by July 1 with visitors. Jones spoke on possibly doing something for the 250th birthday of the United States in 2026 and possible one-time funding for a special appropriation by the Legislature to upgrade the Cultural Heritage Center. Jones discussed the Society's new strategic plan. Jones answered questions about the strategic planning and how Trustees can participate. Jones will update on every quarterly meeting and big updates will be cross flowed and potential activities. Fowler suggested the Trustees can participate with goals and implantation. Jones explained that one of the goals is to reach younger audiences, and he plans to do podcasts starting in July.

Renee Boen, State Archaeologist, submitted her report. (Attachment #2). Boen added that Amy Woodruff had just started working in Archaeology and Roger Williams had just retired.

Chelle Somsen, State Archivist, submitted the Archives report. (Attachment #3). Somsen noted that outreach numbers are increasing.

Ted Spencer, Director of the Historic Preservation Office, submitted his report. (Attachment #4). Spencer gave an update on increasing the amount of Deadwood Fund grant disbursements over the next two years by bringing down the amount in reserves, but always maintaining a \$100,000 minimum. Spencer answered questions about the plan, which does not require Board approval. Spencer also talked about the June 15-17 Archeology Camp and the great turnout they had.

Jay Smith, Museum Director, submitted his report. (Attachment #5). Smith cited Exhibits Curator Peter Kleinpass for his design of new clothes exhibit. They received a new lighting system, thanks to the Historical Society Foundation. Smith noted a substantive growth in attendance since April 20, thanks to COVID-19 restrictions being reduced. Smith and museum staff are hoping to be completely open by October 1.

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 stated in July they will be releasing the book on Custer. Wolff asked about the presence at the book festival in October in Deadwood. Birzer stated they are anticipating a good turnout of Press authors. Marketing Director Jennifer McIntyre is working on getting more press books in Deadwood.

Catherine Forsch, CEO of the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, submitted her report. (Attachment #7). Forsch announced she made an offer to someone for the new development and marketing position.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

None. Agenda items Additional Deadwood Grant Funding, Draft Strategic Plan Presentation and Election of Officers were already covered.

Other Business

None

After a motion by David Wolff seconded by Thomas Hurlbert, President Flynn adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 2:17 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.



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



Megan Fast
Administrative Assistant