

**The Museum Alliance of Rapid City  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 21, 2023**

**Present:** Stacie Granum, Eileen Fleishacker, Barry Gravatt, Kelly Kirk, Micah Lande, Travis Dewes, Mark Slocum

**Present via Zoom:** Brandis Knudsen

**Excused:** Bill Evans, Carrie Gerlach

**Ex-Officio:** Tammy Misselt, Conor McMahan

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM in the Pioneer Room. Meeting agenda and minutes of the October meeting were approved with Micah moving and Kelly seconding.

**Committee Reports:**

Search – Stacie announced that Conor McMahan has signed a letter of acceptance for the position of Executive Director. His start date will be December 18. He has been unable to meet with his current supervisor to resign his position with the Sioux Indian Museum; but will do so on Tuesday, November 28. After that date we will publicize the appointment with a number of press releases, social media posts, and other avenues. The search committee will plan the public announcements and on-boarding. We are extremely happy to have found someone with Conor’s experience and knowledge of museum practices and of The Journey. The staff will be informed after his resignation from the Sioux Indian Museum.

Financial –We have received @ \$27,000 through an IMLS grant (Institute of Museums and Libraries). It was earlier announced as a CARES grant. The final report on that is due in February.

We will be planning for the 2024 budget at the next EXCO meeting on December 14. Bruce is gathering data from 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023 to give us a basis for comparison of revenue and expenses. The city allotment will be \$354,000.

Governance -- Micah presented the slate of Officers and Committee Chairs for 2024. They are:

- Chair: Brandis Knudsen
- Vice-Chair: Barry Gravatt
- Secretary: Stacie Granum
- Treasurer: Open
- Governance Chair: Eileen Fleishacker
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Officers will be elected at the January MARC Board meeting.

Brandis, Travis, and Kelly have accepted second terms on the Board. The mayor has named Ritchie Nordstrom as a mayoral appointment. There are 3 other interested people who have applied for board appointments. Micah will meet with them. The by-laws specify there should be between 7 and 15 board members, with 4 being appointed by the mayor and accepted by the City Council. With the addition of Ritchie, we stand at 11. Micah has sent out a document to gather data on what skills the current board members have and where there are gaps. Board members are asked to complete the survey and return it as soon as possible. Conor suggested we add an option of “legal” to that survey.

Education -- Kelly has previously told us she intended to step down as chair of this committee. Since it is not one of the standing committees as listed in the by-laws, the board feels it is time to restructure this committee. Perhaps it should meet quarterly instead of monthly. There are some very valuable key people on that committee that serve as links to resources we need, i.e. NASA; and we don’t want to distance those people from the museum.

## **Board Business:**

### 2024 Meeting Dates

2024 meeting dates were recommended by the EXCO committee. MARC Board meetings will move to 4 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday to give Bruce more time to do the financials. EXCO will move to 3:30 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday will be reserved for committee meetings.

### Classic Holiday Party

Mark reported on plans for the Classic Holiday Party on December 14. Invitations have been emailed to the following:

- Current MARC Board and staff
- Current Black Hills Historical Society Board and staff
- Former Journey Board members
- Friends (both current and past)
- Donors (both current and past)
- The Mayor and City Council
- Volunteers of The JMLC and the BHHS

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and Chris Heacock will provide piano music. So far, we have only 8 reservations, so Mark asked that our board give anyone we know on that list a personal call or note asking them to come. We will formally introduce Conor as our new ED and ask for his comments. It was suggested we set aside a few minutes for audience remarks on their experiences with The Journey.

### Facility Issues

Conor has received a second estimate from Climate Control Systems on the HVAC System for \$400,000 which is considerably lower than the first estimate of over \$800,000. We are scheduled for \$200,000 of 2025 Community Improvement funds, but are waiting for the CIP committee to meet so we can request that amount be increased to \$440,000 and moved forward to 2024.

We are currently on the city's list for roof repair/replacement in 2025; but that issue is not as pressing as the HVAC system which needs to at least have the AC part fixed by next summer.

### Alice Gossage Memorial

Mark had emailed a proposal to the board and handed out printed copies at today's meeting. Alice Gossage was the wife the publisher of the RC Journal in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and is known as the "mother" of Rapid City. A memorial to her was built by the WPA on Skyline Drive in the 1930's. As the memorial and the roads leading to it deteriorated, the land was returned to the original donor who sold it to KRSD, a one-time television station. A tower was built on the site, damaging the memorial and pushing it down the hill. The bronze plaques and sundial that adorned the memorial were retrieved and attached to a brick stele in Halley Park. The tower still stands and is owned by KELO. The Black Hills Historical Society has a committee at work in rescuing the memorial and rebuilding it in front of The Journey. They have several offers of volunteer time and funds to accomplish this; so there will be no cost to The Journey. Travis moved we throw our support behind this project and Kelly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Dixon Fleishacker, Secretary