

Board of Directors  
Boone County Historical Society  
March 18, 2025

Board Members present: Gina DelRose (President), Heidi Thacker (Secretary), Sonya Dobberfuhl (Treasurer), Don Banks, Jenny Breckenridge, Toni Ellingson, Sue Holmes, Gail Jacky, Cindy Poulter.

Past President present: Carol Rowe

Board members absent: Micki Ernest Jeff Walton, Cheryl Lindberg, Jason Sanford

Staff present: Natali Monaghan, Chris Gardner

District board member present: John Wolf

The meeting was called to order by President Gina DelRose at 5:33 PM. Roll Call, the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Carol Rowe, and recitation of the Society Mission Statement followed.

### **Secretary's Report**

- No additions or corrections were requested for the minutes of the February 2025 meeting. Motion was made by Sue Holmes and seconded by Jenny Breckenridge to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- A Statement of Financial Position, as of February 28, 2025, was submitted to the Board. The balance of the Society checking account is \$13,555.76, which is \$4,000 less than last month. In the Funderburg House checking account, there is currently \$6,302.79, an increase of \$2,000 from last month.
- The board also received a Statement of Financial Position covering January through February 2025. The Society's income for the past month totaled \$1,353.34, which is \$700 more than the previous month. Rentals at the Funderburg House helped bring in \$1,759.43, reflecting a \$1,000 increase in income from the prior month.
- Expenditures for the Society amounted to \$9,112.86, and the net ordinary income was -7,759.52. The Society's principal expenses are payroll and the purchase of needed storage items. Funderburg House expenses totaled \$4,123.11, with a net ordinary income of -\$2,363.68.
- Sonya highlighted line 4400, Program Income & (Expenses), on the January–February 2025 financial report. This line reflects costs associated with events and exhibits, including some advertising expenses. She emphasized the importance of every board member

contributing to event promotion by distributing flyers, making phone calls, and engaging with the community, as the Society has limited funds for advertising. She also stressed that board member attendance at events is essential.

- This year, to date, \$700 has been spent on the lecture series. This money was used for advertising and for payment to two of our presenters. These are the only two presenters requesting payment this year.
- A motion was made by Jenny Breckenridge and seconded by Toni Ellingson to file the financial reports. Motion carried.

### **District Report**

- John Wolf attended the meeting in order to present the District report. The need for snowplowing during the winter was minimal.
- Caulking/sealing the windows of the building along Locust and Whitney will be proceeding.
- The District hopes to move to phase 2 of the heating and air conditioning project soon.
- An individual from a government office handling Stellantis negotiations met with Boone County taxing bodies recently. The goal of Stellantis is to have a fully productive plant open by the end of 2027.
- As of now, there are no plans to develop the land for the electric battery facility, although the land has been secured.
- Stellantis has not yet requested a tax abatement, and an abatement has not been offered to them.

### **Museum Staff Report**

- Troy Yunk has submitted his resignation, with his final day of work scheduled for May 2, following the Student Art Show. His position will be discussed with the District tomorrow evening.
- Chris introduced the name for the new Wolf Gallery exhibit: *Early Boone County: Homemade and Horse-Powered*.
- Museum personnel, supported by a donation from Lori Pepper, are looking into incorporating animal sounds into the Natural History Room. Enhanced audio in the war exhibit is being investigated, as well.

### **Committee Reports**

- Membership Committee:
  - A meeting of the committee was held on March 8. The focus of the discussion was the summer general membership picnic, which is scheduled for July 27, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. An indoor picnic will be held, with possibly hot dogs, brauts, pulled

pork, potato salad, potato chips, and ice cream novelties served. Carol will provide the pies and present a short lecture. The committee will seek food donations.

- The group discussed strategies for promoting memberships. Given the success of our current practice of recruiting members at lectures, we will continue with this approach. Natali will also explore the possibility of adding a 'Join' button to our website. Additionally, a membership table will be set up at the Art Fair.
- The idea of having a booth at the Boone County Fair was considered, but concerns were raised about the possible lack of volunteers to staff it.
- Steps to get the circus wagon parade-ready should go forth. The wagon could enhance our visibility and potentially attract more members.
- Fundraising Committee:
  - The Art Fair, in collaboration with the Boone County Arts Council and the Belvidere Township Park District, will be held June 8, from 11 AM to 3 PM on the grounds of the Funderburg House. Natali, Heidi, Jen, Chris, and Bri met to plan the event. Natali distributed a flyer to the Board.
  - Natali shared a schedule of events for the rest of the year with the board. Another Clue and Fondue is planned for July 19 at the Funderburg House. The theme will be The Wizard of Oz.
  - Natali announced the Little Historians Summer Program series scheduled for June 7, July 12, and August 2. Each K-8 event will include a short lecture, a craft, and a scavenger hunt. A movie night is also planned for one of the lectures. The programs will be free, although a box for donations will be available.
  - An Easter event will take place April 6, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Volunteers will be needed to man the games and to watch over the exhibits.
- Volunteer Committee:
  - Chris and Heidi have been organizing and performing inventory on hats, while Sonya and Denise have been handling the same tasks for the Belvi book collection.
  - Bill Villont and Sonya are developing a Funderburg House coffee table book to be sold at the Art Fair. Snapfish will be used for publishing the book.
  - John Wolf, Karen Neibarger, and the museum staff have been sorting through thousands of historical books and records moved from the Courthouse to the Midland States Bank building. The City and County will determine how the artifacts are allocated, with some being transferred to the Museum.
- Funderburg House Committee:
  - Natali has been researching local landscape companies to attend to the grounds of the House.
  - The art opening for Bri Carlson was held March 7.
  - Summer and Fall at the house will be busy, as there has been an uptick in the number of rentals scheduled.
- New committees:
  - A proposal was made to create a committee to serve as an off-site liaison for community events, such as Build-a-Bike, the farmers' market, the wellness fair,

wedding expos, and more. This committee would be responsible for handing out flyers at the events and networking with people. Sue, Toni, and Gina expressed interest in serving on this committee.

- The creation of an Oral History Committee was proposed. The committee's purpose would be to conduct interviews with local residents willing to share the personal histories of their lives within the City and County. These interviews would be recorded and transcribed, potentially offering a meaningful community service or extra credit project for high school students. Reaching out to the general membership for their participation could be considered.
- A motion to create the Off-Site Liaison Committee and the Oral History Committee was made by Sonya Dobberfuhr and seconded by Jenny Breckenridge. Motion approved.

### **Old Business**

- The District Cooperative agreement is missing "Exhibit B," which references our collection policy. Because an established and documented policy is needed, Chris will draft a new one.
- Natali passed out a draft of a proposed meeting attendance policy to include in the bylaws. This policy would allow for only 3 absences within a 12-month period, unless there are extenuating circumstances, the validity of which would be determined by the Board. A member who has exceeded 3 absences may organize an event or fundraiser to avoid removal from the board. Slight changes in the wording of the policy were requested. A vote will be taken at next month's meeting. If approved, the policy will take effect immediately.

### **New Business**

- None

### **Executive Session**

- A motion was made by Jenny Breckenridge and seconded by Sonya Dobberfuhr to enter executive session. Motion carried.
- Present during executive session were Gina DelRose (President), Heidi Thacker (Secretary), Sonya Dobberfuhr (Treasurer), Don Banks, Jenny Breckenridge, Toni Ellingson, Sue Holmes, Gail Jacky, Cindy Poulter.

- The purpose of the executive session was to consider the salary of the museum assistant and to discuss the Cooperative Agreement the Society shares with the District.
- As per protocol, the discussions and actions during the executive session remain confidential and will not be reflected in the standard meeting minutes.
- Motion to leave executive session was entered at 7:28 PM by Don Banks; second by Sue Holmes. Motion carried.

#### **Vote outside of Executive Session**

- A motion by Toni Ellingson was made to grant a 3% raise to Bri Carlson, beginning April 1, 2025. Jenny Breckenridge seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- A motion was made by Jenny Breckenridge and seconded by Sue Holmes to further pursue budget matter with the District board and to further clarify the definition of an "event." Motion carried.

#### **Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM. Motion to adjourn was made by Cindy Poulter and seconded by Sue Holmes
- The next meeting will be April 15, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Thacker

March 19, 2025

