

Board of Directors  
Boone County Historical Society  
November 18, 2025

Board Members present: Gina DelRose (President), Jeff Walton (Vice President), Heidi Thacker (Secretary), Sonya Dobberfuhr (Treasurer), Toni Ellingson, Sue Holmes, Gail Jacky, Cheryl Lindberg, Cindy Poulter, Jason Sanford

Board members absent: Don Banks, Jenny Breckenridge, Micki Ernest

Staff present: Natali Monaghan

Past President present: Carol Rowe

District board representative present: John Wolf

The meeting was called to order by President Gina DelRose at 5:32 PM. Roll Call, the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by Gina DelRose, and recitation of the Society Mission Statement followed.

#### **Secretary's Report**

- No additions or corrections were requested for the minutes of the October 2025 meeting. Motion was made by Sonya Dobberfuhr and seconded by Toni Ellingson to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

- Sonya distributed a Statement of Financial Position, October 31, 2025, year-to-date.
- The year-to-date balance in the Society's checking account is \$5,171.64, while that in the Funderburg House checking account is \$30,584.14.
- The BCHS Endowment account and Funderburg Maintenance Fund stand at \$397,626.63 and \$296,166.41, respectively.
- A motion was made by Sue Holmes and seconded by Gail Jacky to file the treasurer's report. Motion carried.
- The \$25,000 BCCF fund transfer to the Society checking account – voted on at the October 2025 meeting – has not yet been completed.
- The Funderburg house generated \$5,000 in income from a booked wedding package.
- Sonya reported on the process of securing a new accountant to succeed Bri. There are two hourly-billing candidates under consideration. One candidate has quoted a rate of \$75 per hour; the other (Morrissey) has not yet provided a rate. As no written proposals have been received, Gina advised that formal documentation be requested. The board will also need to evaluate the hourly rate, proposed scope of work, expected turnaround time, and the degree to which the scope of work may be modified. Sonya will share Bri's list of responsibilities with both candidates and obtain the requested information. A full discussion is planned for the January board meeting.
- A motion was made by Sue Holmes and seconded by Gail Jacky to file the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

## **District Report**

- John Wolf presented the District report.
- Plans are going forward on the new heating/cooling unit, and it is anticipated that a loan will need to be secured to cover the cost, although the District has already put aside reserves of approximately \$30,000.
- John presented an overview of the tax system, noting that the District is already receiving the maximum legally allowable revenue. It is felt that a referendum to raise property taxes for the purpose of covering the increase is not currently viable.
- The District has worked closely with the architects to identify the optimal system, and the next step is to solicit bids. Ideally, the rooftop unit will be replaced, while eliminating the boiler and using the existing ductwork.
- It was acknowledged that regular maintenance of the heating and cooling systems will be essential to preserve performance and extend their service life.

## **Museum Staff Report**

- The Society received a grant of \$3500 from the Boone County Community Foundation to cover the costs of a Spanish audio and literary tour of the museum. Gail will be writing the narrative, and Atlas Translation Company will provide translation services.
- The ambient animal sounds have been partially installed in the Banks Gallery. Installation of the buttons that will trigger specific animal sounds will follow shortly. Lori Pepper is providing funding for this project.
- The Christmas decorations are almost done at the House. The outdoor Christmas tree donated by a Belvidere resident will be installed on the lawn by the City. Funding for lights may be sought from a potential sponsor.

## **Committee Reports**

- Membership Committee:
  - The General Membership brunch has been moved to January 11, 2026, from 12 to 2 PM. A potluck provided by Board members, with the possibility of meat being catered, was discussed. Sign-up for specific food items will take place via email in December. Given its past success, the membership list will again be divided among Board members so they can call or email members with invitations. Carol will be giving her presentation on antique toys.
  - The Society will be setting up a table in the Grand Gallery during Hometown Christmas to push for membership sign-ups. Volunteers are needed. It was suggested that donation boxes be placed throughout the museum.
- Off-site Liaison Committee:
  - Although no meeting has been held, one will be scheduled for early January.
  - The committee is seeking suggestions from the Board for potential events the Society can attend.
- Oral History Committee:
  - No meeting has been held – one will be scheduled for January.
- Fundraising Committee:

- Twilight Tours at the Funderburg house are scheduled for December 2, 9, and 16. Cindy will be playing the piano. Entry fees have been lowered to \$10 per person.
- A Christmas cocktail party will be held December 13 from 7 to 9 PM. 5 Bines Brewery will be providing the beer, and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Musical entertainment will be provided by Belvidere North Choraliers. The lower \$30 entry fee will hopefully attract more guests. Natali stressed that it is imperative that Board members help with ticket sales.
- A Sing-Along with Santa will take place at the Museum on December 14, from 4 to 6 PM. The event will be free, although donations will be accepted. Dan Holmes will assume the role of Singing Santa, and crafts will be offered.
- Only one Clue and Fondue will be held in 2026. The summer event will feature a Willie Wonka theme.
- Volunteer Committee:
  - Volunteers are needed for Hometown Christmas on December 5 – shifts are from 4 to 7 PM and 7 to 9 PM and the Santa Sing-Along on December 14 from 7 to 9 PM.

### **Old Business**

- District Cooperative Agreement, Collections Policy
  - The Museum District board needs to vote on the agreement.
- 2026 Proposed Budget
  - The proposed budgets for the Funderburg House and Society were presented and discussed. Due to the deficits, it was emphasized that the Society must strengthen its fundraising efforts, although it will be challenging to avoid a deficit with the Funderburg House.
  - Sonya noted that the Society deficit is mostly driven by Bri's salary. It was agreed that upon Bri's resignation, a replacement should be pursued, such as a marketer or grant writer, whose contributions would offset their cost.
  - The board discussed the D&O insurance and its omission from the Funderburg House 2025 budget; Natali will follow up to clarify the policy's status.
  - A motion was made by Sonya Dobberfuhr to accept the 2026 Society budget, as proposed. The motion was seconded by Toni Ellingson. Motion carried.
  - A motion was made by Sue Holmes and seconded by Toni Ellingson to accept the 2026 Funderburg House budget, as proposed. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

- So far, the annual appeal has yielded over \$6800 for the Society.

### **Executive Session**

- A motion was made by Sue Holmes and seconded by Sonya Dobberfuhr to enter executive session at 7:10 PM to discuss staff bonuses. Motion approved.
- The board returned to open session at 7:19 PM.

### **Adjournment**

- Motion was made by Jason Sanford and seconded by Toni Ellingson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, and meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

**Next Meeting**

- The decision was made to cancel the December meeting. Voting for new board members and officers will take place via email.
- Next meeting will be held January 20, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Thacker

November 19, 2025