Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the CCRM Board of Directors
January 26, 2021
Rockpile Museum, 1:30 p.m.

A. Call to Order and Introductions

President Cossitt Mueller called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. The following individuals attended:

Rita Cossitt Mueller, John Daly, Lucas Fralick, Tami Bishop (via computer), Bill Monahan, Museum Director Robert Henning, Exhibitions and Collections Manager Angela Beenken (via computer), Stephan Zacharias (via computer), and guest Charlene Busk (via computer).

B. Approval of Agenda

John Daly moved to approve the agenda as published. Lucas Fralick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda, with amendments due to additional bills added, was made by Lucas Fralick. The motion was seconded by John Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Museum Program Updates

Director Henning went over Museum Educator Penny Schroder’s education report including an update on the Homestead Craft bags. The website on the learning lab page is doing well. Robert stated the WWII Committee was planning on meeting on January 27th. Will be a virtual program. Additional schools have expressed interest in participating. Robert stated the museum is looking for volunteers to assist with the virtual Pioneer School. Training is available for volunteers. Lucas Fralick will complete a presentation on the atomic bomb. His presentation will be on March 23,
2021. Penny also advised they will hold a “Home School Tour” in the near future.

Angela and Cara are also working on an exhibit about the “Nuclear Era.”

Stephan Zacharias reported that the Museum Facebook page is now active, and they have started an Instagram Account. Both accounts can be found on their respective platforms by searching @rockpilemuseum. Stephan also spoke about the first virtual program of 2021 about the history of homesteading in conjunction with the historian from the Homestead National Monument in Nebraska. The program is titled “Roots Beneath Your Feet.” Stephan stated his next virtual program (following the Homestead program), will be held on February 8, 2021. It is titled; “Black Music on the Great Plains.” Stephan stated the museum will take part in a live presentation on Facebook and YouTube February 19, 2021 featuring Professor Jeffrey Ostler. The professor will speak about his work; *The Lakotas and The Black Hills: The Struggle for Sacred Ground.*

Stephan added there are 7 spots remaining for the Certified Interpretive Guide Training Course. The course runs from 02/24/2021 – 02/27/2021.

E. Old Business

Director Henning stated that no specific dollar amounts, or percentages were discussed by the commissioners as far as budget cuts at the Manager’s Meeting. He will present a draft budget to the museum board next month.

As far as we have heard from Public Works and the Commissioner’s Office, the street crosswalk change remains in the plans. The next hurdle is having the project in the next fiscal year’s budget. Despite receiving the grant from WYDOT, if the project is not in the budget it will not happen.

F. New Business

Rita spoke about the meeting with the RMA. She thought it was a beneficial meeting. The meeting covered some conversation about the Strategic Plan, fund raising, capital campaign fund raising, different ways to expand the community visibility, attending marketing events, assisting with small renovations, and broadening our donor base.

They also discussed the cost to change the information currently on the billboards. The museum has offered to pay for these changes.

Robert hopes to start the admission fees on July 1.

It was agreed the museum name change will be tabled for now, and deal with the admission fee now.
Rita stated the board should meet with the RMA at least once per year, preferably every six months.

The idea of an afternoon Board Retreat was brought up by John Daly to include new board members and past board members to hopefully be held sometime in June, July, or August 2021.

John Daly moved to hold a board retreat after the new board members are appointed in June 2021. Bill Monahan seconded the motion. This retreat would also include outgoing board members in the hopes that they would impart knowledge and wisdom on the new members. Motion passed unanimously.

G. General Discussion

Employee evaluations have been completed.

H. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.

The next regular board meeting will be on February 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Rockpile Museum.