

Danbury Museum and Historical Society Authority
Huntington Hall
Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2023

In compliance with Connecticut General Statute § 1-225, these minutes are being provided for informational purposes and are subject to approval of the Danbury Museum & Historical Society Authority Board of Trustees at its next regular meeting.

In attendance were, Marian Hesemeyer, James Beschle, Brigid Guertin (DMHS), Patrick Wells (DMHS), Michele Amundsen (DMHS), Paul Valeri, Geoff Herald, Bob Doyle, Roberto Alves and Elizabeth Hudson

Members not in attendance: Brandon Whitfield, Bob Young and Doug Polistena

FDMHS Board members in attendance: Ed Siergiej

President Report: Board President Geoff Herald called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm

Geoff Herald asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the May meeting.

A motion to accept the minutes from the May meeting was made by Bob Doyle and seconded by James Beschle, all in attendance voted to accept the meeting minutes in a unanimous vote.

Finance Report: Bob Doyle went over the Museum's financials and let the board know that adjustments have been made to the new budget to reflect increases in expenses.

Members of the board are concerned that the museum is paying for maintenance, insurance and an audit for city property, all of which are legitimately expenses to be borne by the City not the Museum. This means we are fund raising to pay employee salaries which are inadequate compensation for the work they do. There are concerns by the board of why our employees cannot be covered by the City health insurance plan as it is clearly too expensive for us on our extremely limited budget to insure them through the board and the museum.

A motion to accept the Financial Report was made by James Beschle and seconded by Marian Hesemeyer, all in attendance voted to accept the financial report in a unanimous vote.

Executive Director's Report: Brigid Guertin informed the board that the School and Camp programs have been anonymously funded for the next 2 years.

We have Music and animal encounter programs scheduled for the summer.

Cursive Camp is happening in cooperation with other town entities.

The Young Curators Association will be restarted this summer.

There are several co-operative opportunities that have come to the museum. These include working with international organizations to celebrate Charles Ives and Marian Anderson. Possibilities for events around Charles Ives' 150th birthday and working with a local bank for exhibits. There are more co-operative exhibit opportunities coming.

Bob Doyle let the board know that the Museum has been put on the City Council Ad Hoc committee agenda.

Brigid thanked the Music Center for making the music programs a success. Everything went great!

The official meeting of the Board was adjourned due to the loss of a Quorum at 5:34 pm.

The official meeting of the Board was reinstated when we had a Quorum at 5:45 pm.

The Danbury Museum will be hosting the Community Investment Fund meeting for Danbury non-profits.

Old Business:

Social Media – Michele Amundsen informed the board that Social Media is doing great and the Newsletter is gaining more traction.

250th Anniversary: Brigid Guertin let the board know she would be holding off on sending the letter to request a 250th committee be formed for now.

Fundraisers/Events – There are Friend Raising events for the summer including Music and Animal encounter programs. The fall luncheon is the next big fundraiser.

New Business:

Paul Valeri asked that we make it clear that we have secured our collections at the Old City Jail. That it is under our control to make it secure and keep it secure.

Brigid Guertin thanked the United Way day of action, and the Savings Bank of Danbury for all the work done at the museum by volunteers.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm with a motion by Liz Hudson and seconded by James Beschle.

The next meeting of the Board will be July 13th at 5:00 pm at the Huntington Hall.

Respectfully submitted,


Marian Hesemeyer