

Danbury Museum and Historical Society Authority
Huntington Hall
Meeting Minutes – April 13, 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), Julie Siergiej (DMHS), Paul Valeri, Bob Young, Geoff Herald and Bob Doyle

Members not in attendance: Brandon Whitfield, Roberto Alves, Elizabeth Hudson and Doug Polistena

FDMHS Board members in attendance: Ed Siergiej, Roberta Strusai, Tom Valluzzo and Joretta Kilcourse

Guest: John Kleinhans (Mayor's Office)

President Report: Board President Geoff Herald called the meeting to order at 4:59 pm

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

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

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

A motion to accept the minutes from the March meeting was made by Bob Young 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. Brigid Guertin explained to the board that the museum is a Community Good, an institution that provides something back to the community in return for their support.

A discussion was had with John Kleinhans in regards to the Museums financial challenges and the 2008 Ordinance that formed the Museum Authority. John offered to review these and follow up with us.

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 Paul Valeri and seconded by James Beschle, all in attendance voted to accept the financial report in a unanimous vote.

Executive Director's Report: Brigid Guertin informed the Board that the Museum has made two grant applications this month. One to the NAA for \$27,000.00 to support a part time Docent training program at the Museum and one to BPRC for \$50,000.00 to support educational programming.

School programs will be in class with reading and gift packets for the students which revolve around Danbury History.

Our archive being stored at the Old Jail is no longer safe or accessible due to locks being changed and the Museum having no control over who goes into the archive. This leads into where we stand in the ability to store and keep the archives of Material Culture Items etc. We have no more room and this will require revising how we use Huntington Hall to make more room for the archive, along with our ability to accept any new donations at this time.

A motion was made by Jim Beschle to put a moratorium on the collecting of Material Culture Items. Marian Hesemeyer seconded the motion, all in attendance voted in favor of the motion in a unanimous vote.

We will continue having outdoor exhibits, the next one will be on Lakes and Parks along with one on Children's books and The Danbury Fair.

Summer Cursive Camp is not fully funded yet. Working on getting the funding for scholarships.

The Woman's business council event went great and they want to do more with the Museum.

A motion to have the Authority Board Meeting the second Thursday of every month over the next two years, was made by Bob Doyle. Bob Young seconded the motion, all in attendance voted in favor of the motion in a unanimous vote.

There are security issues at the Museum. Every public building in the City has Security personnel but the Museum does not. Due to some recent problems it was decided to change the type of locks at the museum and to keep the doors locked at all times for the security of the staff and visitors. The Museum needs exterior cameras. More may need to be done.

The Cultural Commission changed their approach to programing and we need to keep an eye on this.

Old Business:

Social Media – No report

250th Anniversary – No report

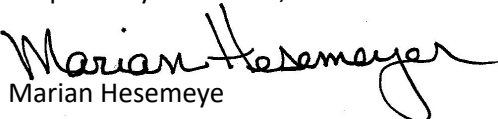
Fundraisers/Events – There is a Luncheon and Barbeque as fundraisers along with music events at the Museum being planned. A Music program in cooperation with the Music Center to be held at the Ives House in May.

New Business: No New business

Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm with a motion by Bob Doyle and seconded by James Beschle.

The next meeting of the Board will be May 11th at 5:00 pm at the Huntington Hall.

Respectfully submitted,


Marian Hesemeyer