

Byron Museum Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting – Minutes

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

The regular meeting of the Byron Museum of History was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners Present: Randy Stukenberg, Cindy Storz, Jim Eisfeller, Heather Higgins, and Jim Hess Also Present: Executive Director Marian Michaelis

Action Item #1 Approve Agenda: Motion by Commissioner Hess to approve the agenda as presented seconded by Commissioner Storz and unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by voice vote.

Action Item #2 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 2025, Motion made by Commissioner Eisfeller to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Hess. Motion was unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by voice vote.

Action Item #3 Approval of Expenses: Motion made by Commissioner Storz to approve the February 2025 expenses as presented and file the financial report for audit, seconded by Commissioner Eisfeller. Motion was unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by roll call.

1. Director's Report:

NTF Grant: As you know, the situation with any federal funds is precarious right now. We were notified the end of January that the grant funds were suspended and not available to be paid out by the ASALH administering our grant. We were then notified on February 3 that a court order was issued and funds were once again available to be paid out. I expect more of this back and forth before we start work on our project.

In any case, we need the new roof on the Read house and we have the funds to pay for it. For now, we are current with the required reports and we do not intend to spend any fund on this project until after July first.

2. Collection/Archive: As part of our effort to raise the quality and lower the quantity of the museum's artifacts, I am recommending items for de-accession based on the collection policy's standards.

Tonight you are viewing the first selection (twenty or so) dolls that we've gleaned from the first two out of twelve containers of Joy Strub's donation of almost #300 pieces.

3. Rentals & Events:

Democracy First is a group of locals trying to meet on a regular basis and possibly form a more formal association. They have reached out about using the theater space on Wednesday evenings and I have encouraged them to consider it an option. There are many details to work out but they are adamant that this is a bipartisan minded group of locals that would be granted 501-C3 status if they get that far. If we enter into any agreement for regular use of the facility, I would ask that we start on a probationary period (90 days?) and that they pay something, even if it is nominal, either per month or per meeting.

The art show ends March 29 and artists will be picking up their entries beginning April 2.

Tour season is picking up, Dan gave three presentations in March, reaching more than 120 people!

Discussion Item #1 NTF Grant: After some discussion of the current challenges to the funding of our federal grant, no additional motions were made regarding this project. There was a consensus to move forward with the work regardless of the grantor's status, knowing that the museum may not be reimbursed. In any case, we would invoice the NPS/AASLH per the executed agreement for reimbursement up to \$35,000 once the work is completed.

Discussion Item #2 Facility Use: The Director will submit proposed changes to the Facility Use Agreement paperwork for review at the April meeting.

The request from the local group has been rescinded after being offered use of a local church.

Discussion Item #3 Deaccession: This was the first of two viewings required to deaccession items from the collection. This is the first 20 dolls presented and the director plans to submit several such group submissions over this year in order to reduce the quantity and increase the quality of the permanent archive.

Action Item #4 Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. was made by Commissioner Eisfeller, seconded by Commissioner Storz, and unanimously approved by the commissioners in attendance by voice vote.