

ST. MICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES: February 13, 2023

Brendan Sage, President, called the board meeting of the St. Michael Historical Society to order at 7:05 PM in the City Hall board room. Other directors present were Crystal Sayen, Dan Lenz, and Lisa Marx. There was no quorum for this meeting.

President's Report – Brendan had nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report – Lisa reported that the balance on 11/14/22 was \$14,293.12. The balance as of 2/13/23 is \$15,608.96. Expenses since the last report were \$459.21. Deposits were \$1,775.00. The Endowment savings balance is \$3,630.37.

Media Specialist/Webmaster – Crystal reported that our website needs major updating and being that Joe Kaul is semi-retired from website development we need to move to something like wordpress or a pre-set theme website. Crystal suggested that SquareSpace would work for our website goals. There are some e-commerce features, donation button, and member's only areas in the \$27 a month annual prepay option. Crystal is building it currently and the goal for launch is June 1.

Membership – Crystal reported that memberships as of 02/13/23 was at 144 members with 4 new members added since our last meeting. There are 24 outstanding memberships at present.

Newsletter – Bob was absent but reported that the February newsletter is nearly done.

Curator – Bob reported that he was able to determine the date of the first mass in St. Michael. Previously, we know that it was during the “first week in September” according to accounts. He did some research and got evidence that Fr. Francis Xavier Weninger, SJ visited St. Michael from September 6 through the 13th of 1856. Bob looked at a calendar from that year and found that September 7th was a Sunday, and so we can say with certainty that the first Sunday mass was September 7th, 1856. There is no way that a priest would not say mass on a Sunday. Bob notified Fr. Park, and he added September 7th to his calendar as “first mass day” in St. Michael.

Old Business – Bob reported that he is working with Terry Beaudry of SOAR who is very interested in trying to get some public art in St. Michael. They are working together to try to get a grant from the Central Minnesota Arts Board. What they have learned so far is that they can do this process in phases. It is not perfectly clear yet but they may be able to first secure the grant to pay many artists to submit ideas for a sculpture honoring the settlers. Or they get a second grant to have the finalists refine their proposals. Or it's an option to get a third grant to pick one artist and pay them to create the sculpture. They are currently trying to talk to the director to get more specific advice on to proceed.

New Business – Bob reported that after his presentation at the library he was contacted about doing a guided bus tour. It would be another way to promote history and the St. Michael Historical Society. Dan suggested that we get Nestor VonBank's book and either do a reprint or have available to sell through the St. Michael Historical Society.

Announcements –The next meeting will take place on Monday, April 10th at 7:00 PM in the Gries Lenhardt room at St. Michael City Hall.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the board meeting was made by Lisa, seconded by Dan, approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Sayen, Secretary