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# Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC  
Meeting Minutes  
Michigan Historical Museum  
Lansing, Michigan  
December 10, 2007

**Call to Order**

President Bus Spaniola called the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History (Friends) to order at 10.08 AM.

*Board Members Present:* Larry Griffin, Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Keith Pohl, Charles Seeley, Ralph Sims, Bus Spaniola, Paul Tarr, Morris Thomas, Tom Truscott, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Wiskemann.

*Board Members Absent:* David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, Tom Shawver, and Louise Stilwill.

*Board Members Excused:* Adriana Greci Green, Tom Shawver, and Louise Stilwill.

*Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present:* Chris Dancisak.

*Guest:* Mark Harvey, State Archivist

**New Board Member Introduction**

New member Ralph Sims was elected to the Board during the September Board meeting. Ralph currently works for the Michigan Department of Transportation - Aeronautics Division. He is a member of the 102nd United States Colored Infantry reenactment organization. He has a strong interest in history.

**Approval of Agenda**

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed.***

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2007 Board meeting; motion passed.***

**President Report**

President Spaniola indicated that he did not have a report. Rather his comments would be presented throughout the meeting in association with the topics brought before the Board.

**Treasurers Report**

It was noted with appreciation that Treasurer Dick Johnson has made a \$5,000 donation to the Friends to be used in the conservation of the state's Leavenworth Collection (Oldsmobile, Michigan State University, and Lansing Business historical photographs).

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**Treasurer Report (continued)**

<b>BALANCE</b>		<b>11-01-07</b>	<b>\$11,966.07</b>
DEPOSITS			
	Donation	5,000.00	
	FOMH	<u>431.60</u>	
		5,431.60	<u>+ 5,431.60</u>
TOTAL			<b>= \$17,397.67</b>
CASHED CHECKS			
# 1332	MI Oral History	500.00	
# 1333	Pruitt	40.00	
#1335	Burk	150.00	
#1336	Mauer	150.00	
#1338	Love	200.00	
#1339	On the Spot Eng	139.28	
#1340	Burgett	200.00	
#1341	Archives of MI	1,185.00	
#1342	Shauver	164.88	
#1343	Dancizak	220.05	
#1345	Carroll	<u>50.00</u>	
		3,001.21	<u>- 3,001.21</u>
<b>BALANCE</b>		<b>11-30-07</b>	<b>= \$14,396.46</b>
UNCASHED CHECKS			
# 1333	Walker Tavern	76.60	
#1337	Simons	150.00	
#1344	Wellman	42.90	
		209.50	<u>- 209.50</u>
			<b>= \$14,126.96</b>
<b>AVAILABLE FUNDS</b>		<b>10-31-07</b>	<b>= \$14,126.96</b>

***A motion was made and seconded to provide \$5,000 to the state for the purpose of conservation of the Leavenworth Collection (Oldsmobile, Michigan State University, and Lansing Business historical photographs) in accordance with the specific request that accompanied Dr. Richard Johnson's donation of \$5,000 to the Friends; motion passed.***

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; motion passed.***

**Presentation of Bills**

The following bills were presented for approval by the Board:

- A. \$126.12 (Lamination material for use with Membership Cards)

**Presentation of Bills (continued)**

***A motion was made and seconded to approve payment for Item A above; motion passed***

*B. \$200.00 (Mule Team used for Winterfest).*

*C. \$330.00 (Odell Snack for Winterfest).*

*D. \$34.25 (Reimbursement to M. Bloomfield for Winterfest).*

*E. Up to \$800.00 for Public Service and other Radio Announcements for Winterfest).*

***A motion was made and seconded to approve Items B- E above; motion passed.***

*F. \$445.00 for payment for the Museum's annual membership dues to West Michigan Tourist Association. This pays for a listing in the Association's tourism publications. The reason that this was being brought before the Board was because the state has been limited in terms of what it can purchase due to a series of Executive Orders from the Governor.*

***A motion was made and seconded to approve Item F above; motion passed.***

Concern was expressed that requests such as this really should be paid for by the state or if the state could not pay for them directly, then consideration should be given by the Michigan Historical Center to reinstate of the Friends' donation boxes in the Museum. Funds could be obtained from this source rather than from funds used by the Friends to directly support historical programs.

**Museum Report**

Chris Dancisak stated the Museum has a budget but no authority to spend yet. He also reported that the 5th floor is still under construction and it now appears that it will not be ready for use until next fall.

Chris stated that Statehood day will take place on January 26, 2008. This year's plan is to show how the state developed over its history with volunteers helping to bring the various time eras to life. The program also will look at the state's future. The Friends will be allowed to have a display up during the program.

***A motion was made and seconded to provide up to \$1,000 to help the state with its January 26, 2008 Statehood Day program; motion passed.***

The current Hunting Exhibit will remain up through the month of March.

Jennifer Sochor was acknowledged for all her support that she has provided to the Docents and to the Friends.

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### Committee Reports

A. *Map Preservation Committee*. No report.

B. *2008 Veterans Day Program Committee*. President Spaniola indicated that the date for the Friends' 2008 Veterans Day Program would be Sunday, November 9, 2008.

C. *Board Nominating Committee*. No report.

D. *Membership Committee*. No report.

E. *Magazine/Military Committee*. No report.

F. *Grants Committee*. No report.

G. *Newsletter Committee* – Paul Tarr stated that the committee met last Thursday. The title of the Friends' newsletter will be *Inside Michigan History*. It currently is anticipated that it will come out quarterly. Copies of the draft were passed out to the Board.

H. *Bylaws Committee* – The proposed Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws amendments needed to allow the Friends to have affiliates and to secure an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Group Exemption Number were discussed. As indicated at the last meeting and reported as such in the November meeting minutes, Bylaw Committee Chair Keith Harrison indicated that Tax Attorney Sara Pierson had reviewed the Friends Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and indicated that (1) as currently written, the Bylaws were in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation since the Articles of Incorporation do not allow the Friends to have chapters and (2) there also was a potential IRS problem with how the Bylaws had the chapters set up. It will be necessary for both the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws to be amended. This will need to be done before a Group Exemption Number could be applied for from the IRS. Despite the facts that the explanation for the need of the amendments was stated at the November meeting, was again reported in the November meeting minutes, and was explained for a third time in the two transmittals of the amendment package, there still was confusion among some Board members regarding the reason for the amendments.

***A motion was made and seconded to refer the Bylaw Committee's Report and proposed amendments to Executive Committee to be reported out at the next meeting with a recommendation for approval to send the amendments out to the membership for consideration; motion passed..***

### Old Business

A. *Conservation of Historical Photographs*. State Archivist Mark Harvey stated that he wanted to thank the Friends and in particular Dr. Johnson for the \$5,000 donation towards the conservation of the Leavenworth collection (Oldsmobile, Michigan State University, and Lansing Business historical photographs). The money will be used to help stabilize the previously unchecked degradation process of the photographs. He indicated that an additional \$30,000 would still be needed to scan the photographs onto a non-degradating medium. The state currently is writing a "Save America's Treasures" grant with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and a preservation grant with the National Endowment for the Humanities. In addition

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### Old Business (continued)

to preserving a major portion of Lansing's history, it was hoped that this history would be able to be shared by placing many of these photographs onto the Internet. Mr. Harvey will provide periodic updates to the Board.

B. *License Plates*. President Spaniola briefly reported on his continued efforts to have the state establish a Michigan History license plate. Currently, the bill to establish the license plate has been and will remain pending until all the budget issues are resolved.

C. *Telephonic Board Attendance*. This issue was inadvertently overlooked during the meeting, however, nothing has hanged since the last meeting since the Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

D. *Museum Fund Raisers*. The possibility of holding two Museum fundraisers during 2008 (one in July and one in August) was discussed. The fund raisers would be a wine tasting or other food-related event and would have musical groups providing light entertainment. Chris Dancisak indicated that he had a conversation with the Director of Lansing Community College's WLNS radio station and with WLNZ, which is a commercial radio station, who have expressed interest in a joint fundraiser. Finally, interest also has been expressed by the musical director of the Boarshead Theater to be involved in some way in this endeavor. It was mentioned that in addition to the Four Freshmen, the Michigan State University and Western Michigan University jazz groups may be available as the entertainment. The committee will look into this further and report to the Executive Committee who will report to the Board.

### New Business

Paul Tarr indicated that there were three paintings (each 4 ft by 2ft) depicting early America that were displayed in his Manistee High School for years. When it came time to build a new school, the school superintendent felt that the pictures would not fit in with the school's decoration scheme. Paul's 1955 High School Graduating Class had the pictures touched up. The pictures are currently being stored in the basement of the *Manistee Advocate*. He would like to find a repository for the three painting and is asking the Friends to help him out in this process. President Spaniola indicated that he would check with the State Library.

It was reported that the State Board of Education changed the grade school curriculum without public input, resulting in 4th grade history to be taught in 3rd grade but only through settlement. There is an option for further history to be taught in the 4th grade, but this is no longer required. This action is causing confusion among the 3rd and 4th grade teachers.

It was reported that two Senate Bills that are proposing to take social studies and geography out of the school curriculum.

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**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectively submitted,

*Keith G. Harrison*

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

**The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, January 14, 2008, in Lansing.**