



Minutes
Siouxland Heritage Museums
Board Meeting
Thursday, August 7, 2014
Law Library, Old Courthouse Museum

Present: Museum Board; Marty DeWitt, Jeff Barth, Michelle Erpenbach, Ron Helwig, Bob Kolbe, Mike MacDonald, Dianne Metli, Roger Terveen,
Museum Staff; Bill Hoskins, Kari Kohlhoff
Public: Matt Staab, Grant Wilson, Tim Schendel, Austin Ashlock, Adam Nyhaug, Richard Perkins, Molly Engquist

Board Members Absent: Arthur Kriens, Virgil Andersen, Mike Mullin

Marty DeWitt called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM.

The Minutes of the June Board Meeting were approved as published.

The Chair moved agenda item IV D, Collections Committee Report ahead of item III, Public Input.

Bill Hoskins, Museum Director, presented background on the request of Richard Perkins, to deaccession artifact 1926.1.7, a stone petroglyph known as the "Prayer Rock." The rock was purchased by Richard Franklin Pettigrew in 1925 from a land owner near Evarts, Walworth County, South Dakota, and transported to Sioux Falls where it has been on exhibit outside the Pettigrew Museum for 89 years. It is part of Pettigrew's estate give to the City as part of the 1925 agreement and ensuing litigation. The City of Sioux Falls has title. Mr. Perkins requested that the Museum deaccession the artifact and give it to Richard Perkins so that he can place it at the Crazy Horse Monument in Custer County, South Dakota. Copies of Mr. Perkins's letter were provided to the Board and public. Bill Hoskins presented the Museum Collections Policy (provided in writing to Museum Board and Public) regarding deaccessions as background for the information of the Museum Board and members of the audience.

Definition. To *deaccession* an object is to formally and permanently remove it from the collections. To *dispose* of an object is to relinquish title and remove the object from the premises.

Deaccessioning at the Siouxland Heritage Museums. In considering deaccessioning objects or groups of objects, the Museums must be aware of their role as the trustee of the collections for the benefit of the public. Objects are acquired for permanent retention in the collections and not with the thought of quick disposal. No object shall be deaccessioned strictly in order to obtain the estimated financial value of the



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artifact. However, when it is deemed prudent to do so, objects can be deaccessioned, particularly when it will strengthen the collections and further the goals of the Museums.

Criteria. The Museums must establish clear title to the object in order to be free to deaccession it. Title is typically conveyed through a signed Deed of Gift. Clear title may also be obtained through South Dakota's abandoned property law. In addition, an object will be considered for deaccessioning if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. The object is no longer relevant to the Museums' mission.
2. The object has been damaged, altered or deteriorated beyond usefulness or its inherent value.
3. The object is a duplicate or reproduction of another object in the Museums' collection.
4. The object has been missing for over two years, or is known to have been stolen, and all efforts to retrieve or locate the object have been unsuccessful.
5. The object is a threat to the staff or the other collections.
6. The object does not have a significant provenance that would make it a candidate for extensive conservation rather than deaccession.

Authority. The Curator has the authority to recommend deaccessioning to the Collections Committee. Once approved by the Collections Committee, the Director will forward the request to the full Museums Board for their consideration and approval.

Bill Hoskins stated that the first question in regards to the request is to decide to deaccession the artifact or not. The Museum Staff recommendation is to retain the artifact in the Museum's Collection because it does not meet any of the criteria for deaccession. Hoskins then explained that in the event the Museum Board chose to deaccession the artifact, the policy options for disposal.

Preferred Methods of Disposal. Due diligence requires us to keep the object in the public domain in at all possible; therefore the Museums prefer the following methods of disposal in the following order:

Transfer to the Support Collection. Deaccessioned object may continue to support the Museums' activities and mission by transfer to the Support Collection. Examples include use for tours, demonstrations, discovery room, and conservation practice.

Transfer or exchange with another public institution. Deaccessioned objects may best be kept in the public domain by exchange or transfer to other museums, public or educational institutions which will make the object accessible to the public.

Return to donor. Where appropriate, a good faith effort should be made to notify donors of an approved deaccession and pending disposal. If an object is to be deaccessioned within two years of its being donated to the Museums, the donor must be notified, as there may be tax consequences. Before an object can be returned to a donor, the Museums' staff must establish that the donor took no tax deduction for the objects at the time of the donation.

Destruction. Destruction as a method of disposal is used only in extreme cases in which the object poses a threat to the staff or remaining collections or has deteriorated beyond usefulness. Destruction must be witnessed and fully documented by the Collections staff.

Staff at the Siouxland Heritage Museums, board members, volunteers, and their immediate families may not acquire deaccessioned objects through any means.

Requests for return of donations. The Deed of Gift transfers clear title to the Museums, without conditions, of all donated objects. The Museums have no legal responsibility to consider any requests for returns of donated material. However requests for returns of previous donations will be considered on an individual basis by the Curator of Collections and the Collections Committee, who have the authority to grant exceptions.

Kari Kohlhoff, Curator of Collections, Siouxland Heritage Museums offered some explanation for the criteria for deaccessions to help prevent unethical conduct. She used the example of the Fawick Flyer, a one-of-a-kind artifact, made in Sioux Falls. What if someone wanted it for their auto museum and offered a large sum of money if the car was deaccessioned and transferred to a museum in another state. The tendency for a cash strapped entity might be to take the money and give up the artifact, losing a piece of history and violating the public trust.

Marty DeWitt, Museum Board Vice-Chair called upon Mr. Perkins to review his request and why he thought the artifact should be de-accessioned by the Museum.

Mr. Perkins presented his case. Mr. Perkins does not feel that the artifact is being protected or available to public viewing and enjoyment in its current location. He believes that most people are un-aware that the rock exists. To remedy the situation he wishes the Museum to give the rock to the Crazy Horse Monument. Mr. Perkins presented a letter from the Crazy Horse Monument saying they would accept the rock if it were offered to them and they had no expense in transportation.

Marty DeWitt invited other public comment.

An unidentified gentlemen, commented that he agreed with Mr. Perkins.

Matt Staab of Brandon, stated that he grew up in the neighborhood and that he played on the rock and at the Pettigrew Museum as a child. He said that the rock is a part of South Dakota history but also of the history of Sioux Falls and said the rock should remain in Sioux Falls for future generations.

Mr. Perkins commented on his family's background in the community which he also covered in his letter. He stated that his family did not receive the credit for their contributions.

Tim Schendel of Sioux Falls, questioned why the rock would go to Custer instead of somewhere else. He does not see the need to move the rock from where it has been on exhibit for the last 90 years.

Dianne Metli, Museum Board, commented upon the decision of the Collections Committee of the Museum Board, which was not to deaccession the stone.

Robert Kolbe, Museum Board, stated that he had met with Mr. Perkins and discussed his request with him. Bob commented upon the age of the rock and its carving. Bob Kolbe said he thought that the relationship and spirituality were lost in time and impossible to determine.

Jeff Barth, Museum Board, commented that the discussion has been great for the community and that the publicity is a benefit to the artifact and the Museum. He thought that if we were discussing loan instead of gift that would not be out of the realm of possibility.

Michelle Erpenbach, Museum Board, agreed with Jeff Barth. She commented upon the collection of RF Pettigrew and the importance of keeping that gift together. The Collections Committee recommended that the Museum Board decline Mr. Perkins request and retain the rock 1926.1.7 as a part of the Museum collection in Sioux Falls. Michelle moved that the Museum Board accept the Committee recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dianne Metli. The motion passed unanimously.

Marty DeWitt thanked the public for their input and discussion.

Public Input: Bill Hoskins passed around notes and evaluation from rentals in the past month.

Reports:

Dianne Metli, Alliance Board President, delivered the report of the Siouxland Heritage Museums Alliance. She reported that 463 people attended the Historic Homes Tour on July 24. Tickets for the Pork Raffle are on sale. Tickets are \$1.00 each for a chance at winning one of ten 8 pound pork loins. The drawing will be at the plaza concert on August 29.

Bill Hoskins reviewed the Financial Report for June, 2014 which was handed out as part of their packets. Michelle moved that the financial report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Mike MacDonald. The motion passed on vote.

Bill Hoskins, Museum Director, presented the Director's Report for May, 2014 including some highlights for the month. Highlights included:

- Attendance in the 2nd Quarter of 2014 is up 2.7% over 2nd Quarter, 2013. Attendance in the 1st Quarter of 2014 was up 2 %.
- County adopted a provisional Budget July 29
- City CIP includes replacement of 2 HVAC Units in 2015.
- Kroger Masonry tuck pointed in June focused on the top 6 courses of stone below the roof line on the east and south side.
- Glass Pros replaced the windows in six basement windows.
- Staff has replaced the plexi and painted 10 storm windows at the Pettigrew in July.
- SHM hosting the ASDM Meeting in May 2015.
- Kevin Gansz and Adam Nyhuag picked up two paintings and dropped off two in Denver June 18-20.
- Museum Staff presented 39 programs on and off site to 1,755 people in June.
- Museum Staff presented 51 programs on and off site to 2,349 people in July.
- *Wallace Dow Prairie Architect* exhibit opened on June 12, 2014 at the Old Courthouse Museum.
- Siouxland Heritage Museum's exhibit *Symbol of Freedom; The American Flag* opened at the Pipestone County Museum on June 14, 2014.
- Installation of the Pettigrew Travels began on June 16. The exhibit opened July 11 at PHM.
- Outside Contracts: Sign contract for Baseball in Hills with Deadwood, Proposal for Garretson, Outdoor Campus, Confluence for Terrace Park Research and Stockyards.

Collections Committee also reviewed the offer of the Minnehaha County newspapers from the Minnehaha County Historical Society. The newspapers are currently stored in a vault on the 2nd floor of the Old Courthouse Museum which is lease by the Historical Society from Minnehaha County. The shelving the newspapers are stored upon belongs to the Museum. This donation would streamline the management of this collection which is used by Genealogy Society, Historical Society and Museum Staff and through the organizations by the public. Jeff enquired about digitalization of newspapers. Bob commented upon the digitization that the state is conducting. Jeff moved to accept the donation. Michelle seconded the motion. The motion passed on vote.

Regular Business

Bill presented a brief update on the 2015 Budget and changes made to date in the process.

Bill Hoskins reported that the Minnehaha County Building Committee did authorize the Staff to meet with the Architect and Engineers and work on updating the plan to prepare to bid the project at their May Building Committee Meeting. Bill reported that the Museum Staff met with Koch hazard Architects on May 22 and that things are moving forward.

Reports on the progress the land sale from Doug Brockhouse were passed out for review by the Board. Copies of correspondence between Sandy Dean, Hartford, SD, and the Minnehaha County Commission regarding the listing and land sale were also included as information for the Board.

Bob Kolbe mentioned the activities in Pioneer Lane at the Sioux Empire Fair by the Museum and the Century Fund.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Museum Mission: *“The Siouxland Heritage Museums is dedicated to enhancing the experience of learning for our community, its families and visitors through collections, preservation and interpretation of history”*