



MUSEUM OF THE ALEUTIANS

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Minutes for regular Board Meeting, November 8, 2021

5:00 pm on Zoom.us

*The Museum of the Aleutians shall collect, preserve, and share
the rich cultural legacy of the Aleutian Island Region.*

Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm

Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors.

- **Board Members:** *Present:* Suzi Golodoff, Ann Nora Ehret, Mary Heimes, Anthony Lekanof, Erin Reinders, Shayla Shaishnikoff, and Sandra Moller,
- **Staff:** Virginia Hatfield and Billie Jo Gehring
- **Visitors:** No Visitors

Changes to agenda: Strategic Plan added to Old Business. Lekanof moved to approve with changes, Reinders seconded.

Approval of minutes. Moller moved to accept minutes with corrections, Heimes seconded, minutes approved unanimously.

Financial report: Moller moved to accept the financials as presented and Reinders seconded; Hatfield presented the financials. Hatfield noted that the audit went well and expects the draft soon. Gehring noted that our pending list was much longer in the past than this year and that it went much more smoothly this year because of the uploaded documents. She noted that there were some allowance issues (bad debt that we want to write off), but auditors want to roll it into the next fiscal year. They are overwhelmed this year due to the increased number of online audits and this made it easier for them to complete the audit more quickly. These allowances are not errors, just things that are uncollectable. Overall, it went well and there were no findings, just a few things of note. Gehring also pointed out that, looking at this month's financials, looking at bottom line of P&L, that the Museum is right on for budget to actual.

Moller asked if the next steps are for the Board to approve the audit. Hatfield said she will receive the draft, Gehring and Hatfield will review for errors, and then the auditors produce the final audit which Hatfield will present to the Board. This will also include a Letter to the Board. Gehring mentioned there may be a delay in getting the final audit. Altman Rogers are starting the School District audit and we will be waiting for the draft to be approved further up the chain.

Golodoff asked, in reference to the first page of P&L and memberships, if the total for membership was the total for the whole year? Hatfield said yes, that is year to date, but does not include the recent results from our membership drive. She noted that we will see those numbers in December but maybe January. Gehring noted that we will see the Corporate Memberships in Springtime.

Staff Report: Hatfield added that the audit made about \$11,000 and \$2,900 on Raffle and then the memberships bring us to total of \$18,000. She said the auction occurring on TV was a good event and that she really enjoyed the TV/online audience component of this year's fundraiser. Hatfield said she was sorry Anthony could not make it and thanked Mary for her help. Shaishnikoff asked Ginny to share the story about the Akutan basket. Hatfield regaled that Antionette (Tina) Kudrin Gauen made a basket for

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the auction and was able to get it to the Museum even though there was no post office in operation in Akutan. Tina gave the basket to her sister who took it to the Akutan store. The store person was able to get it to Earl Robinson and they transported, across some rough ocean waters, to Unalaska and Museum staff (Drennan) went to retrieve it from the Amaknak Spit dock. Hatfield also noted that both Earl Robinson and Tom Robinson made donations at that time.

Hatfield also talked about the IMLS grant and USFWS contract to hire Kale Bruner to process archaeological collections. Hatfield reviewed grants we received so far including two new ones, both through Alaska State Libraries – the Easy ARPA grant that will fund internet, which will require CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act) certification; and the Project ARPA to install interpretive signs around town. Hatfield talked about the CIPA certification process and what that involves (Internet Use Policy, install filters on computers, public hearing to ask community what we should have in place to protect children). We will become compliant so we can receive these funds in the future.

Moller mentioned the Federal Infrastructure Bill and wondered if Hatfield had talked to the Ports or CVB about a structure for the people who come off the cruise ship or ferry. Hatfield said she had talked with the City (Peggy McLaughlin) and CVB (Carlin Enlow) and mentioned that Reinders would know more. Reinders said there are plans for a cruise ship dock. It is slated for design work in 2024 and construction in 2026. City Council is uniting around an Arctic Port concept to diversify the City's funding streams so that project is a priority at the Federal level and possibly the State level as well.

Moller asked about the status at the school and can we have kids coming to the Museum and what other programs are being planned. Hatfield said we are feeling our way forward regarding field trips this spring. Staff went into the schools this past month. Golodoff requested more adult programming from the Museum and would like to see more links to classes. Heimes would like to see more workshops, presentations, classes, and or talks by elders and local people. Golodoff would also like to see more of this. She would like to see more in- depth programming. Hatfield said we will work towards that goal. Shaishnikoff added that the Wellness program with the Tribe is hosting craft night classes and would encourage Drennan to reach out to Kate Arduser to collaborate and maybe generate ideas. Heimes said this town is great for offering things to kids but not so great at adult programming. Gehring asked if we could coordinate some kind of a zoom class to teach a broader audience. Shaishnikoff said it would be worth exploring. Hatfield mentioned we would have a 3-part lecture series on the material culture and archaeology. Heimes mentioned partnering with the WWII visitor Center to use their movie theater. She also noted that there was large turnover in the school and that she learned a lot from the classes she took through the Bristol Bay Campus and that is lacking right now. Perhaps it would be worthwhile to put together and offer a video series. Gehring mentioned that there was a video made by Jeff Dickrell, but she does not know where it is. Hatfield mentioned that UAF is trying to bring Dickrell out again. Also, perhaps she or Kale Bruner could teach a similar course. Shaishnikoff mentioned that KUCB did a wonderful video and it would be worth sharing. Heimes thinks that video is already being aired on Channel 8 TV.

Heimes also asked, with respect to the collections manager report, if there should be 3 people on the current project? Hatfield said yes, the grant for the inventory project budgeted a part time collections assistant position and two volunteer positions. We have not been able to include the planned personnel due to the pandemic and the granting agency will understand, but we are working to include people into those positions. Kale Bruner is assisting in a limited capacity. We hope Anna Poole will assist with sewing covers for textiles.

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Old Business:

Board appointments: Posters are up around town and Shayla and Ginny made a PSA for the radio. Shaishnikoff was reappointed by the Qawalangin Tribe. Hatfield mentioned it on the TV as well. Golodoff asked how long we are going to let these be up before we make appointments? Shaishnikoff said the elections will be held at the December meeting. We will use the same process as when the board appointed Mary Heimes. Shaishnikoff said the deadline is the December Board meeting? Golodoff suggested we periodically put posters up to keep people's awareness of this opportunity to serve, perhaps put them up annually or every six months and have the elections each December. Shaishnikoff asked if we should set a deadline. Moller suggested December 6th. Gehring asked if this was set in the bylaws? Shaishnikoff said she did not believe it was stated. Hatfield said it is not specifically stated. Golodoff said we left it vague. This is our first attempt at this process since we made the bylaw changes. Shaishnikoff said we will set the deadline for December 6. Lekanof said that it is standard to have an opening and closing period for application for board positions. Shaishnikoff asked Hatfield to let the staff know when answering the phone about the deadline.

Strategic Plan: Shaishnikoff asked Moller and Hatfield for their recommendations for how to proceed. Hatfield said we are proceeding with the first goal for accreditation. She included the Ethics policy for this meeting as part of our policy and procedures. She will reach out for consultants to help put the Strategic Plan together. Moller said the goals are a great start. Lekanof recommended stating our mission statement for the meetings. Refreshing members with the mission statement and understanding why we are all here. He also added that TAC did a Strategic Plan process online and they had minimal success because it was online. He asked if it would be possible to do an in-person meeting? Maybe in January or February? Golodoff thanked Anthony and said it was important to do that grounding and re-affirming. She also suggested we brainstorm around those goals and developing action items. She really liked the Alutiiq Strategic Plan. She reminded the board that we talked about hiring someone to put the strategic plan together. She wondered if we could find someone who worked on the Alutiiq plan. She suggested reaching out to the Alaska State Museum Curator for Statewide Services. Lekanof suggested putting out an RFP. Shaishnikoff supported hiring someone to put together the plan. She also like the idea for revisiting the goals and brainstorming them and the idea of reading the mission statement and that we should add that to the agenda.

New Business:

Ethics Policy: Hatfield hoped to include the AAM review of these policies but did not. We have made the requested changes. We have brought our deaccession policy in line with best policy. We can review these in December.

Collections Quarterly Report: Hatfield reviewed that Macke updated the committee on her progress. Macke has processed two rows and has updated software to assist with the inventory projects. We need some assistance with sewing to help protect textiles. Moller said this looks to be a long-term project. Hatfield said yes and this will be revised as she progresses. Hopefully it will not take as long as her initial projections. We have a second grant to assist with this – the IMLS project to catalog archaeological collections. The inventory of collections has to happen in the midst of her other work so she has a lot on her plate. Shaishnikoff informed the board that she and Ginny talked about her workload and helping Karen not feel overwhelmed. Golodoff said she is doing a great job. Golodoff will look at volunteering

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more. Heimes also appreciates the hard work by Karen. Hatfield said she is trying to help Karen focus on small tasks and not feel overwhelmed by the large amount that needs to be done.

Shaishnikoff asked if anyone had any comments. Hatfield added that we are receiving a small award (\$6000.00) from the Macke Foundation to repair the collections storage. She also said Alaska State Museum was awarded a grant to provide interns -a graduate student in Museum studies- to Musuzems around the state and we are included in their consideration for that intern. We will have to provide airfare and housing. Hatfield also added that a visiting archaeologist, Sean Mack from King Cove, is working in town and offered to do photogrammetry (3D modeling of objects) for the Museum. Finally, Hatfield added that KUCB asked if we would partner on a project about the boarding schools – such as the Carlisle Indian School. The Museum is very interested in that project.

Moller mentioned Americorps and Vista volunteers. Her office houses the Serve Alaska – i.e. they are working with Sitka Tribe of Alaska to bring in volunteers. Moller will connect Katie with Ginny. They also offer planning grants to help develop programs. Typically, a youth or senior program. If the community is interested, there is a lot of opportunity.

Shaishnikoff added that Sean Mack might be able to teach a class or offer programs.

Date and time of next meeting. December 13, 2021 at 5:00 pm via Zoom

Public Comments: none

Adjournment: 18:33 pm

Director: 

Date: 12/13/21