

## MBMHS AGM 10am Sept. 19, 2020

15 members present

**Welcoming comments and review of Covid protocols for the MB Community Hall.**

**Approval of Agenda:** Approval 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Wisnia 2<sup>nd</sup> Adrian

**Minutes AGM 2019:** Approval 1<sup>st</sup> Janet 2<sup>nd</sup> Gillian

**Treasurer's Report:** Ernie Webb, read by Maureen Assets as of Feb 28, 2019 were \$67,475

Approval of report 1<sup>st</sup> Ben 2<sup>nd</sup> Gillian

Laura reported there was \$193 in the petty cash

Karlie donating \$150 from Country Grocers, obtained by collecting grocery receipts

CVRD funding request for \$10,000 was submitted by Maureen. She explained that we usually request \$15,000, but the CVRD sent out a letter that said, due to COVID, we could either return the amount we received in April for \$14,800, or request none at all or a smaller amount next year. We chose to ask for a smaller amount next year. This funding is at the total discretion of our area director Blaise Salmon and he has reported that the money will be tight next year. When applying for this grant, Maureen needs to submit a substantial report on what we did with the money to benefit our community. Events and number of people that attended, historical signs in the area, promotion of the Heritage Museum etc.

Jim made a motion at this time, "to not request a grant from CVRD next year unless we hire staff to help in running the museum and get involved in other functions of running our inventory, office work, submitting applications for grants, planning etc." Kent asked that we table this motion until this was better explained. This will be brought up at the Heritage Museum AGM next week. The other partners need to be involved in what we would like to see happen. Maureen said the request to the CVRD for funding next year had already been submitted for \$10,000.

Thrifty's Foods Smile card renewal was submitted by Maureen this year for \$1500 for displays. Last year we received approximately \$1200 from this program.

Maureen explained at this time, that we do have a healthy bank balance but we have future expenses such as our donation to the Heritage Museum partnership, container enhancement with a possible new roof?, development of an online learning quiz program. The cost of these future projects is being investigated.

**President's Report:** Maureen thanked the executive for all their work and our many volunteers. We could not function without them, also donations from Thrifty's, Country Grocer, CVRD. The MBMHS was started on March 6, 2009 and received Charity status in 2010. Due to COVID we have to look at new ways to present the history of this area to our community, since we cannot have public functions like the Good Old Daze, or mystery history tours. We are not sure how long the Heritage Museum will be open during the winter, but it would be a good time to be planning new displays to eventually change what is there now. Maureen asked for volunteers to help her in the planning.

### **Election of Officers:**

President: Maureen Alexander was elected for a 1 year term, nominated by Jim

Vice-President: Pat Stevens has a 2 year term

Treasurer: Ernie Webb has a 2 year term

Secretary: Laura Jorgensen elected for a 1 year term, nominated by Gillian

Directors: Ben Weber, nominated by Maureen and elected

Vida Glaser, nominated by Jim and elected

Janet Clayton, nominated by Maureen and elected

Karlie Weber, director with a 2 year term

### **Business:**

**Reports: Signs** Jim reported we have 2 new signs up at Rusticana Coffee. One is a replacement sign and the other a new one having to do with the QA Solarium located previously on the land owned now by Brentwood School.

MB Centre has approached the MBMHS to present an idea for a sign covering the electrical box where BruGos coffee was located in the parking lot. They had suggested something colorful which may be difficult as the historical pictures are in black and white. Marilyn Fuller, the manager of the Mall is approaching Hydro for permission to cover the box. Pat Stevens commented on how uplifting it is to see our signs in the area and also Gillian's displays in the Medical Centre.

**Inventory Committee:** Lyn mentioned we have a Policy on Collections information paper. Beverly worked on and put on a memory stick, a list of props and what we had de-accessioned. When we initially started accessioning our inventory, we did everything, even props, and so now are de-accessioning items that are not relevant to the area or are no longer needed.

Work on inventory has been stopped due to COVID as it is difficult to distance in the confined space of the container. The small committee is looking at ways to proceed and also looking for volunteers, as we have a backlog of items.

Lyn felt we needed volunteers that are able to help with lifting our storage boxes up on ladders to higher shelves. When it comes to changing displays, it will be important that things are stored and catalogued properly for future needs. We could also use help having Caroline's procedures simply written and explained for new volunteers.

Jim asked Peter if he is willing to continue doing the photographing of the artifacts. He was for now, but would like to teach someone the procedure so he could retire. Gillian commented on what a great job everyone is doing. Pat Thompson volunteered to help with anything she could do sitting down.

### **White Cross:**

Jim explained what our White Cross project is about and how we got involved. We presently lay white crosses on the graves of veterans who have died since returning from war, at Shawnigan Cemetery,

Methodist United (where our Heritage Museum is located), St. Francis Xavier, St Andrews at Cowichan Station, and the Dougan family cemetery in Cobble Hill. It is open to the public. We get a few members attending as well as a few Legion members, some Boy Scouts and family members of the deceased being honored are also invited. No date has been set for the ceremony this year, but will be before Remembrance Day. The White Crosses are left on the gravesite for the month of November. Ben also helps Jim with this project, as the crosses have to be refreshed each year and picked up at the end of the month. We usually have refreshments and a social event afterwards, but this year it will not happen.

**Container:** We are still looking for ways we can improve on the appearance of our office/storage container beside the Heritage Museum. We had assured the CVRD that we would work on this, and while we have improved the appearance with paint trim, pictures, and planters, it could still use a bit of work. Karlie has asked her tenant who is a handyman/carpenter, to look at it and give us some ideas. He thinks a new roof line would be a huge improvement, so we are getting more information and cost on doing something like that.

#### **Museum:**

We are not sure if the Heritage Museum will be open in October. We will know more after their AGM next week. Presently there are only about 10 people coming each Sunday. We are only allowed 4 people in at a time and others have to wait outside. This would not work well in the colder weather. In our first year of operation we had about 600 visitors. Maureen would like to see a new display and now would be a good time for planning. Maureen has a plan in mind and asked for volunteers for a display committee. Vida, Pat, Janet, Adrian all volunteered. A thorough cleaning of the Museum is done every Thursday by Jeanine, a volunteer from the Cobble Hill Historical Society.

#### **Discussion:**

The tabled motion that Jim made was discussed. It was suggested that we need to find someone to work part time to relieve some of the work by the volunteers. This person could work with the collections, coordinate events, office work, possibly opening the museum more days. This will all be discussed with the other partners in the Heritage Museum as some funding for this person would have to come from their budget. Kent lifted the tabling of the motion after this was explained more. He then 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to explore hiring someone part time.

It was brought up again about highway signs. Very difficult to get a blue Museum sign on the highway as you need to have year round staff and be open to the public regularly.

Maureen explained about a Museum Quiz. She contacted the White Rock Museum as they run something through Youtube. There are lots of online games and quizzes and fundraisers. White Rock got a grant from their city to do this as the quizzes or fact and fiction formats promote interest and awareness of their city. We could do the same, as online information and engagement is the future, and with COVID issues, a good way to keep interest in our MBMHS when we cannot hold events. Maureen has contacted Joerg, our webmaster, and they will discuss this and give us a price to set something up. Schools could also be involved with our website and students could learn a lot of the area while having fun doing it like a game show. Maureen already has a lot of Fact and Fiction quizzes that she presented at senior's homes and other interest groups. Maureen made a motion to pursue the cost of doing this, Pat 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and everyone was in favour. Adrian and Janet volunteered to help Maureen with this. Our documentary movie cost us \$20,000 to produce. Next meeting in October we hope to have an idea of the cost of this.

Adrian suggested quizzes and articles in the Citizen. Gillian mentioned also OCanada magazine for advertising and articles. Pictures of Where is this? Answers in next month's issue. Janet mentioned we needed to keep on sharing our history in a new way on the internet. Vida talked about curator apps and linking our inventory photos to games. You can contact authors of the programs.

Jim asked about a follow up meeting in October on the many things discussed. Date is to be decided.

Peter asked Jim to mention that on our website we could possibly have a more prominent Donate button near the top instead of almost hidden at the end through Canada Helps. There could also be a place to submit membership. This will be brought up with Joerg.

Janet mentioned 2 websites for game site info. ISpringsolutions.com and ISpringQuizMaker.com

Janet asked about community service hours for high school students and how they could possibly help with lifting boxes and setting up displays. Again due to COVID, not sure that would work.

Karlie made a motion to ask their tenant Bill, the carpenter, to give us a quote on design work on the container. Laura 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all were in favour.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08.