City of Platteville Museum Board
Minutes of the Nov. 20, 2019, Meeting

by Delores (Dee) Woolf, Secretary pro tem

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Van Deest at 4:43 p.m.

Present were Bill Van Deest, Mike Hahn, Deborah Rice, Dee Woolf, and Barb Stockhausen along with Museum Director Erik Flesch.

The minutes of the October 16 Museum Board meeting were discussed. A motion was made by Barb Stockhausen and seconded by Mike Hahn to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Museum Director Erik Flesch gave the Director's Report.

- He indicated that the posts for the new museum signs are 4 feet underground with cement on them. The signs for the letters were taken to Waukesha for further preparation.
- The Christmas decorations are being hung and all the damage from the previous lightning strike has been repaired. On November 15 an all Greek group of 30 fraternity and sorority members decorated the large Christmas tree.
- On Saturday, November 16 Sigma Pi from UW Platteville had a work day in which they did a variety of jobs around the museum including some requiring shoveling mud and moving boxes of minerals.
- Programs: Jenny Smith has been doing candle making in the local elementary schools. On Veterans Day weekend 55 veterans viewed the film Dawn of the Red Arrow at the Millennium with 30 other people. Horse drawn carriage rides will be offered to the public from 4:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. On the first 3 Fridays of December with two teams of horses. Also there will be an eighth Lyceum that will serve as the Miners Forum.
- In the area of grants our Alliant Energy grant request was declined but the Platteville Community Fund did give a grant to the Museum for map creation and another grant to the Friends of the Museums for $3,000 to finish work on the train cars. A Stoll Family grant was awarded to the Friends Group in the amount of $2,000 to subsidize school group visits to the Museum. A Wisconsin Federation of Museums grant covered the costs of registration for the museum director to attend their annual conference. The IMLS Grant has a cap of $50,000 for 2 years and we will know in August or September 2020 if we will get this as last year’s application was declined.

Collections Monthly Report: Masonic Lodge items were proposed for accessioning while offering others to the Grant County Historical Society or similar Lancaster entity. Mike Hahn made a motion that was seconded by Dee Woolf to do this. Motion carried.

As part of the Long Range Plan for the Museum it was realized the having a permanent collection management position depends on the city or self funding. There is a top need for Grant money to do a collections assessment for Preservation (CAP) and to do it self funded by applying for a CAP Grant at $10,000-$12,000 with a possible $8,000 grant. The Inventory and Digital Database of items is 15% completed. The goal is to get Public Access to our collection and past perfect online. The Friends Group will complete funding of the $50,000 and currently there is a donor who is offering a $10,000 matching grant. A motion was made by Barb Stockhausen and seconded by Deb Rice to accept the $10,000 matching grant. A motion was made by Barb Stockhausen and seconded by Deb Rice to accept the Long Range Plan and addendum. Motion carried.

For our next meeting we will review the 2020 Museum Goals.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.