



MUSEUM OF THE ALEUTIANS

(907) 581-5150 • 314 Salmon Way Unalaska AK 99685 P.O. Box 648 Unalaska AK 99685 • www.Aleutians.org

Minutes for regular Board Meeting, October 11, 2021

5:15 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 5:19 pm

Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors.

Board Members: *Present:* Ann Nora Ehret, Suzi Golodoff, Mary Heimes, Anthony Lekanof, Sandra Moller, Erin Reinders, and Shayla Shaishnikoff

Staff: Virginia Hatfield

Visitors: No Visitors

Changes to agenda:

Approval of minutes. Golodoff moved to accept minutes with corrections, Lekanof seconded, minutes approved unanimously.

Financial report: Moller moved to accept the financials as presented and Ehret seconded; Hatfield presented the financials. The board discussed founding members contributing to an endowment and interest used for Exhibit Manager. Sandra mentioned the 5-year analysis prepared by Billie Jo, noting how dependent we are on the city and we should look at other revenue sources. Suzi commented that the Alutiiq Museum's plan stresses relationships with well known donors, to keep strong supporters and build on them rather than to court new ones. Shayla suggested board members do more research into this and to put on the future agenda.

Staff Report: Hatfield discussed a change in a grant from Alaska State Museum to Alaska State Libraries IMLS LSTA grant and also added that we applied for the Museums Alaska Art Acquisition grant for a throwing board. The next one will be asking for a basket from Tina Gauen (Antionette Kudrin). Moller noted that appreciate going for art and that we should make it open for everyone and that we should make sure we are strategic about what art we go after due to limitations of space. She expressed concern about how we decide what we want to acquire and asked if there is a more formal process? Hatfield discussed the internal process for staff and how we decided on the throwing board because we do not have one made by a known artist and tradition. This item will go into the permanent display, so current collections space is not an issue. Hatfield also noted that our process is to look at what we have and what we need in our collections when solicited and when we are soliciting art. She also noted that this grant is for any Alaskan artists and not limited to Unangan artists. Golodoff noted that, in the past, we have acquired and spent a lot on modern art visors, but that we don't have a visor that is from an original context. Golodoff would like to see an old visor that is the real deal that was used and would hold importance for its authenticity.

MOTA Board Members: Ann Nora Ehret, Seat: Public-at-Large (2021), Suzi Golodoff, Seat: Ounalashka Corporation (2022), Mary Heimes (Vice-President), Seat: Public-at-Large (2021), Anthony Lekanof, Seat: The Aleut Corporation (May 2023), Seat: Sandra Moller (Secretary), Seat: Public-at-Large (May 2022), Erin Reinders (Treasurer), Seat: City of Unalaska (2023), Shayla Shaishnikoff (President) Seat: Qawalangin Tribe (2021)



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Hatfield noted that the art acquisition grant applies only to living artists and cannot be used for ethnographic pieces but agreed that acquiring ethnographic pieces is very important to the Museum and that the Museum has a very limited collection of ethnographic objects.

Old Business:

Strategic plan and financial 5-year review: Hatfield noted that she added the values from the Qawalangin Tribe website and suggested the board include a set of values that are based on these values. She also wondered if another board member might help develop the plan. Golodoff suggested we hire someone to help, perhaps someone who worked on the Alutiiq Museum strategic plan. We might need someone to help us focus on it. It is a lot to do and hard to get people together for a work session. Lekanof said, as someone who has worked on similar plans, it is worth the investment to have help and if we can meet in the same room, that would help as well. Moller liked the Alutiiq one as well and noted that it reflected a lot of time, energy, and passion for the organization. She believes this should be a document that everyone is behind. Moller also wondered if our direction is ok with other board members? Golodoff asked if other members would keep in mind someone who could help? Lekanof suggested we go out for a bid? Golodoff noted that it would be nice if it was for museums, someone familiar with cultural museums, Unangan culture, and the local community. Reinders said she also liked the idea of doing an RFP and that we could specify what background and past experience we want. She also noted that it won't be cheap, but would be worth the investment and useful to have someone to put the document together. Shaishnikoff said she can see this is a big project and appreciates Sandra's and Ginny's efforts. She will talk to the Tribe about the values and including those in our strategic plan. Shaishnikoff directed the board's attention to the financial five year review. Moller thinks that it is important to know where we get our funding so we can continue to foster our relationships and grow new revenue streams. Hatfield mentioned that the recommended additions to income streams would be growing existing donors, asking businesses for corporate sponsorships, and adding/growing earned revenue.

Board appointments:

Shaishnikoff thanked Heimes and Hatfield for working on the letter to the Qawalangin Tribe asking for them to reappoint Shaishnikoff or appoint someone new. Shaishnikoff also noted this is the first time we have dealt with reappointments and there are two public seats also up. Golodoff could not find the old posters we used. There is an application that the City uses and it would be helpful to use a format that already exists. Reinders mentioned that we had an application. Heimes said she would forward her application that she filled out when she joined the board.

Officer re-elections:

Shaishnikoff noted that the Board votes on officer positions and asked about how that works. Golodoff noted that this is new as well since the update of bylaws. She reviewed the officer terms for 1 year and this provides a chance for directors to move around in their positions. Golodoff suggested we wait until after board reappointments. Shaishnikoff agreed that the board should wait. Lekanof noted that typically officer elections follow board seat elections.



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NAGPRA Committee:

Hatfield informed the board that the OC (Laresa Syverson) approached Museum staff about forming a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) committee to discuss future burial decisions of upcoming collections. She wondered if perhaps the Museum board would want to have a representative. Moller noted that APIA has a cultural department and Millie McKeown and APIA would assist TAC in the same work. She also expressed curiosity about what they envision MOTA board involvement would be. Hatfield pointed out that Laresa said this would be a local committee for making decisions about local reburials. Laresa was interested in developing a committee that would prevent unilateral /individual reburials of remains and wanted a committee that reflected more of an Unangan community decision process. Shaishnikoff asked if there was a time needed for the decision. Hatfield said the original meeting was just to gauge interest. Shaishnikoff said the Board will keep this in mind and will make a decision when more is known. Reinders asked if Laresa was reaching out on behalf of OC? Hatfield replied that she was. Hatfield also noted that the NAGPRA issue that brought this about was from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

New Business:

Auction: Golodoff asked if we needed to meet before the Auction. Hatfield said the Museum staff would love help. Golodoff said there will be more items coming in and Harriet Berikoff will donate a food basket.

Date and time of next meeting. November 8, 2021 at 5:00 pm via Zoom

Public Comments: none

Adjournment: 18:23pm

Director: _____

Date: _____

12/13/21

