

Heritage Network Approved Meeting Minutes December 14, 2009

I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Minutes

President De Pelan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Colville Learning Center

Board members present: De Pelan, Susan Dechant, Grady Knight, Kathy Berrigan, Bill Sebright, Karen Meyer, Janet Thomas, Joe Barreca, Karen Struve, Jackie Franks. Guests present: Craig Newman, Steve Kramer, Molly Kirk

Motion to approve November 16, 2009 meeting minutes made by Bill, Susan seconded, passed.

II. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Susan brought a printed report showing cash flow from 11/14/09-12/14/09 and account balances as of 12/14/09. Income of \$21 included one membership, and expenses came to \$4,625.32 including NPS project expenses (payment to Map Metrics and g2Video) of \$4,607.60 and the telephone bill. The bank account includes \$1,521.52 remaining designated for Prestini and \$5,490.33 general funds. With \$50.28 in the Key Online PayPal account, total bank accounts equal \$7,062.43. Susan also brought a listing of income and expenses for all of 2009. She submitted the resellers application, which takes about 6 weeks to process, so that we'll have it when needed.

Items offered for sale on Website would be shipped by individual museums. Make a confirmation of sale for Susan's use and PayPal. Sales tax is an issue especially since every county in Washington has its own rate. Grady developed a program with the tax rate by county and zip code. Include shipping charges when tax is figured. State sales tax procedure for out-of-state orders.

Janet has e-mailed dues notices. There were 47 paying members in THN last year, 36 in 2009. Dues will be considered due on April 1. Methods to handle dues paid in, say, October, were discussed.

III. Open Issues

Election: Janet moved, Susan seconded motion to unanimously approve election of the slate of officers as presented: Joe Barreca president, Janet Thomas vice president, Susan Dechant treasurer, Kathy Berrigan secretary. Motion passed.

Term expires for Jeanne Law. Scott Hirsch would like to be removed. Susan Harris hasn't been attending meetings. These names were removed from the board. Dianne Eppler, De Pelan, Bill Sebright were re-elected as board members after 2009 terms expire, and new board member Karen Struve was approved. These positions expire in 2013. By oral vote, Joe and Janet are to be listed on the checking account, Joe Barreca listed as registered agent.

Oral History: There is no new purchase order in place yet. Two people were interviewed last Thursday, with one more (Orville Clemons) planned. There are several potential interviewees, including Ruth Ray. Adding the "entertainment factor" makes the interviews more marketable, but caution is used lest the entertainment value take precedence over historical accuracy, as in *Ghost Dancers*.

The goal is to index inventories (such as DVDs research) to find the name of one's grandfather, for example, without looking at all the DVDs; voice recognition is possible to locate an individual. Joe also takes written notes which can be searchable to go with the video. It is typed and on Word file. A type of index for researching will be kept together with notes with the DVDs on the file. Word files can be placed on the Website. Work is ongoing to attach metadata to video which will be searchable on line and can then be purchased at THN. Eventually the Website can accept orders.

Preserve America: As noted last month, the funds are not in the coffers yet, but expect activity in January 2010, when grant work can begin. There is paperwork to do. Determine outcomes and expectations, staffing methods and approval.

Prestini: Nothing new to report on Prestini project. The poster can be printed with motel/hotel tax money from the County.

Equipment Storage: In March bring camera and accompanying equipment to store in designated cabinet at Colville museum

IV . New Business

Tourism/Outdoor Recreation: Guest speakers Craig Newman (CNF), Steve Kramer (hist./forest/preservation), and Molly Kirk (Americorps) want to create a “vision” for tourism/outdoor recreation in the Tri-County area. Now in “listening session” stage, they want to form a group to identify opportunities and needs for tourists. They seemed to be unaware of THN’s groundwork already laid in this area: the Passports, loop tours, museum maps and *uppercolumbia.net*. Grady with a helper from Spokane is also developing a new Website, *visitstevens.com*. There are links for hunting turkeys, for example. Craig’s group is including homesteads, mining camps and geo-exploring.

Some points brought up: Open hours and days of facilities for someone doing research in a certain area are inconsistent, which can be problematic for a traveler with limited time to spend. Directions to cemeteries would be helpful as lots of tourists are genealogically-oriented. Family activities, rock hunting areas, wagon trails, bike trails are of interest. State Parks budget is limiting use of already existing parks and lakes, such as handicapped-access Starvation Lake, which is closed. Need local volunteers, user-friendly Websites and sharing between services, coordination between national and state groups. Businesses don’t always see the advantages of tourism to them. Employees need to be knowledgeable about local points of interest. Joe suggested a possible tourist draw: a touring steamboat on Lake Roosevelt with gambling .

Next THN meeting Monday, March 15 at 9:30 at the Kettle Falls Visitor Center. To plan: program for annual meeting in April.

Notes: Jack Nisbet will be putting on a program on David Thomas and Douglas in Usk on January 23 for Farm Forestry meeting. There will be a two-day meeting (sponsored by Society of American Foresters) at Wallace with info on the 1910 fire.

Recorded by secretary Kathy Berrigan