

Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/7/2026

Meeting Start: 6:31 PM.

Attendance:

- Executive Director: Candice Blackstone-Larson
- Board Members: Luke Guindon, Ann Fisher, Sue Bertram, Steven Sams, Phil Britton, Andie Johnston, Lee Ossenheimer, Mary Tilson
- Board Members joined remotely: Dick Pierson, Susan Divine, Tom Dummer

Approval of Previous Minutes

- **Ann Fisher moves to approve meeting minutes from December with an amendment to add the date at the beginning and add Melinda Britton as in attendance.**
 - **Seconded by: Phil Britton**
 - **All in Favor.**

Treasurer's Financial Report

- Bell Financial Investment (increase of \$3,111.40 since 12/2025)
 - \$117,345.67
- Business Checking
 - \$95,212.09
- Grant Business Checking
 - \$8.06
- Business Money Market
 - \$106,118.88
- 12-month CD for \$100,000 at Incredible Bank
- **Treasurer's Financial Report Approval**
 - **Ann Fisher moves to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit.**
 - **Seconded by: Tom Dummer**
 - **All in Favor.**

Old Business

- The formation of an investment planning committee
 - Tom Dummer will chair the committee, Ann Fisher and Candice Blackstone-Larson will join the committee.
- Bylaws Update
 - Proposal passed at December 2025 meeting
 - Legal counsel has reviewed the changes and made multiple slight recommendations.
 - Ann Fisher moves to adopt the amended bylaws
 - **Seconded by: Lee Ossenheimer**
 - **All in Favor.**
- Trailer Licensing Update

- Tom Dummer thanks Lee Ossenheimer and Candice Blackstone-Larson for their efforts to accomplish this.
- Board Orientation
 - **This item will be brought back as old business in February, when a Vice President will be in place to assume responsibility.**
- Board Eligibility Review Committee
 - The committee has not yet met.
 - Sue Bertram will chair this committee with Steven Sams, Tom Dummer, Julie Foster-Lindquist as committee members.
- Commercial advertisements on Co-Op property
 - The Fundraising Committee will meet and review policy and report back to the board.

New Business

- **Executive Committee Elections**
 - **Ann Fisher nominates Sue Bertram for President, Ann Fisher for Vice President, Tom Dummer for Treasurer, and Luke Guindon for Secretary.**
 - **Seconded by: Phil Britton**
 - **All in Favor.**
 - **Ann Fisher moves to approve the Executive Committee nominees.**
 - **Seconded by: Steven Sams**
 - **All in Favor.**
 - President: Sue Bertram
 - Vice President: Ann Fisher
 - Treasurer: Tom Dummer
 - Secretary: Luke Guindon
- Peter White Award Nomination
 - Ann Fisher nominated Hiawatha for recognition through the Peter White Award. A decision will be made in February.
- Communication Protocol
 - Email communication with the newly elected Board will be pertinent to ensure proper record keeping and be the primary form of communication.
- Email Safety
 - Luke Guindon received phishing emails that were impersonating Tom Dummer. The scammer was trying to impersonate Tom and get Luke to Venmo money by claiming there was an invoice that Julie Foster-Lindquist needed assistance with.
 - This phishing attempt may not be the last, and board members are now aware that it happened.
- Board Committee Assignments
- Board signatures - BOD Job Description & Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson will send the policy to Board members to docusign.
- Music Selection Committee and how it works with band approvals and offers

- The Board would like to discuss the final approval of bands for the main stage.
- **This item will be brought back as old business at the next meeting when John Gillette is available.**

Festival

- Hiawatha Festival Compensation Policy Breakdown Doc Review
 - **This will be brought back at the next meeting as old business.**
 - Board members need to review this document before the next meeting and make comments on the digital document for future discussion.
- Accommodating workshop workers to be able to work 3 shifts to qualify for a camping tag.
 - **Ann Fisher moves to adopt Candice's proposal to allow a workshop performer compensation package to performers that host two workshops to include a full weekend pass, and a single meal voucher.**
 - **Seconded by: Lee Ossenheim**
 - **All in Favor.**
- Area Coordinator/ Area Monitor Dismissal Policy
 - Up for discussion was to consider creating an Area Coordinator / Area Monitor dismissal policy that can be used in the event that a volunteer needs to be dismissed from their role as an Area Coordinator or Area Monitor
- First Aid Area rebuild, update & committee formation
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson reported that she will get a meeting scheduled with Michael Kates, Cori Noordyk, Lee Ossenheim, and the Security Area Coordinator to discuss the redevelopment, purpose, and logistics of the First Aid area for the 2026 festival.
- Tourist Park - no new construction information at this time

Director's Report

- The 2026 Festival artwork deadline is one week away , the Board can vote on artwork in February.
- Michigan Arts Council Grant
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson is working with Heather Picotte to apply for this grant. The application is due Jan 22nd.
- Superior Health Foundation Grant
 - Getting submitted tomorrow on 1/8/2026.

Committee Reports

- Events Committee
 - Sue Bertram reports that the committee last met Jan 6th.
 - Events have been advertised on Facebook, including the first square dance of the year, HOTAP, and Potluck/membership drive at the end of the month.
 - We will have a Children's Event in April.
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson will be requesting more money for event advertising.
- Membership Committee

- Potluck/membership at the end of January will be hosted at The Fold.
- Fundraising
 - Ann Fisher will arrange a meeting to discuss and review policy and ideas.
- Music Selection
 - Dick Pierson has emailed the Board a finalized list of music performers that are ready for final offers.

Meeting Adjournment

- **Ann Fisher moves to adjourn the meeting.**
 - **Seconded by: Steven Sams**
 - **All in Favor.**

Meeting Ended: 8:33 PM.

Next Regular Board meeting - 2/4/2026, 6:30 PM.