

Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/4/2026

Meeting Start: 6:33 PM

Attendance:

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

Approval of Previous Minutes

- **Ann Fisher moves to adopt the minutes as amended. The minutes omitted discussion regarding the creation of an AC/Monitor dismissal policy.**
 - **Seconded by: Phil Britton**
 - **All in Favor.**

Treasurer's Financial Report

- Bell Financial Investment (increase of \$10,210.04 over the 2025 year)
 - \$116,065.39
- Business Checking
 - \$86,572.83
- Grant Business Checking
 - \$8.09
- Business Money Market
 - \$106,209.01
- 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: Andie Johnston**
 - **All in Favor.**

Old Business

- Bylaws Update
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson will post the new and approved bylaws on the website this week.
- Board Orientation
 - Ann Fisher will schedule Board Member Orientation.
- Board Eligibility Review Committee
 - Sue Bertram will schedule a meeting this week to discuss the eligibility of Board applicants.
 - Steven Sams, Tom Dummer, and Julie Foster-Lindquist are the committee members.

- Event Committee
 - Sue Bertram presents that Frank Youngman and Seth Bernard are the Master Artists for a fall event. They will come to area schools and talk about water and music, and perform a concert in October of 2026.
- Membership Committee
 - January potluck has been rescheduled to take place in June.
 - Volunteer SignUpGenius will be available at this potluck to start volunteer signup for the festival.
- Fundraising/Sponsorship Committee
 - Ann Fisher reports that the committee developed a list of potential business sponsors and donors to contact, to be considered a Board-approved list from which Hiawatha may accept funds.
 - Language will be added to agreements to allow us to accept donations from community partners that are not on the list per Board approval.
 - Community partners can be recognized at the festival by allowing sponsorship logos to certain signage around the festival grounds.
 - **Ann Fisher moves to proceed to be able to offer sponsorship logos on Hiawatha signs coming into the park.**
 - **Seconded by: Phil Britton**
 - **All in Favor.**
- Music Selection Committee
 - Dick Pierson reports that contracts are being finalized. The order of performers is being decided, and all 2026 performers have been chosen.
 - Performers for the 2027 Festival are being lined up.
 - Dick Pierson will check to make sure that the selected performers will not be at risk of running into visa problems that might complicate performing at the festival.
 - Sue Bertram is forming a Board oversight subcommittee for the Music Selection Committee.
 - To oversee the financial aspect of the Music Selection Committee to make sure it meets with the mission statement.
 - Sue Bertram, John Gillette, Ann Fisher, Dick Pierson, Phil Britton, will all be part of this subcommittee.

New Business

- Festival artwork submissions were presented for selection for the 2026 festival logo and T-shirts. The Board voted and selected the winning artwork.
- Office Projects
 - Materials to be moved from the Hiawatha office to make more space for square dances. Some of the things include a bike, Christmas tree, picture frames, moving a couch and possibly selling one of the couches.

- Board members need to be actively involved with committees and will be in communication to get involved.
- The Hiawatha office is looking for a “new” used refrigerator for the kitchen area in the office.
- Sue Bertram is seeking cost estimates for adding shelving to improve the store merchandise area and help with merchandise sales.
- Sue Bertram will be taking food and hygiene donations to an area food bank, Hiawatha will continue collecting items for donation.

Festival

- Candice Blackstone-Larson is updating the volunteer expectations to make sure all volunteers know what is expected with a clear code of conduct. This will help make expectations clear, and set us up for expedited volunteer dismissal in the event that a situation arises. The plan is to add this in an agreement format that volunteers will agree to when signing up to volunteer.
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson will be working with Area Coordinators to write out the processes of how their areas function.
- Dr. T. Michael Kates, DO has accepted the role of First-Aid Area Coordinator
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson reported that she will get a meeting scheduled with Dr. Kates, Cori Noordyk (CARE Team AC), Lee Ossenheimer (Set-Up AC), and Molly Ferrington & Tom Fure Security AC's) to discuss the redevelopment, purpose, and logistics of the First-Aid area for the 2026 festival.
- Tourist Park Construction
 - Lee Ossenheimer and Candice Blackstone-Larson will be scheduling a meeting with Tourist Park to discuss any changes that are ready for discussion.
- Festival Attendee and Performer Safety Plan
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson is waiting to hear back from legal counsel to come up with an idea of what we can provide.
- Liability Waivers
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson is working with legal counsel to come up with liability waivers and photo release language that we can use as an agreement on the festival ticket form.
- 5-Year Calendar
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson provided the board with a 5-year calendar that will list all events for the next 5 years. Including events like the start of ticket-sales, beer release, committee meetings and more.
- 2026 Board Retreat weekend
 - Board members need to schedule the 2026 Board Retreat and check with members for availability.
- Musician Deposits
 - Candice has 4 performers that are requesting deposits.
- 1099s and W2s have all been sent out.

- Candice Blackstone-Larson has reached out to Jim Supanich and Doug Loman to discuss the 2026 festival and is waiting to hear back.
- Area Coordinator kickoff meeting
 - Most coordinators preferred one-on-one meetings, so the group meeting was cancelled.
 - More groups want to have email addresses associated with their area that can help centralize communication.
- Grants:
 - SHF AED grant application has been submitted.
 - SHF First-Aid Equipment Grant has been submitted, recipients will be awarded in March.
 - Michigan Arts and Culture Council grant has been submitted for \$66,566.
 - Marquette City Promotion Fund grant just came out and needs to be submitted.

Meeting Adjournment

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

Meeting Ended: 8:07 PM.

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