

Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/3/2026

Meeting Start: 6:30 PM

Attendance:

- Executive Director: Candice Blackstone-Larson
- Board Members: Luke Guindon, Ann Fisher, Phil Britton, Andie Johnston, Mary Tilson, Lee Ossenheim, Steven Sams, Sue Bertram, Tom Dummer
- Board Members Who Joined Remotely: Dick Pierson, Susan Divine
- **Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - **Tom Dummer moves to adopt the meeting minutes.**
 - **Seconded by: Lee Ossenheim.**
 - **The motion carried.**

Treasurer's Financial Report

- Bell Financial current balance: \$121,521.74
 - Year to date gain: \$6,282.38
 - Month to date gain: \$3,701.01
- Embers Credit Union CD: \$100,000
- Business Checking
 - \$112,702.31
- Grant Business Checking
 - \$59,383.42
- Business Money Market
 - \$6,588.62
- 12-month CD for \$100,000 at Incredible Bank
 - \$104,615.54
- Account Totals
 - \$501,110.62
- **Treasurer's Financial Report Approval**
 - **Ann Fisher moves to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit.**
 - **Seconded by: Mary Tilson.**
 - **The motion carried.**

Consent Agenda

- **E-Votes: PreFest 2027 band selection of the New Third Coast Band (8-yes, 0-no's, 3-no responses, motion carries)**

Committee Reports

- Standing Committees
 - Events Committee from Sue Bertram
 - June 17th community square dance is scheduled. Posters are up, social media announcements and an e-blast are the planned means of advertising and awareness.

- There will not be a dance floor, but the parking lot will be sufficient. There will be barricades in the parking lot to form a dancing area, and a feather flag advertising live music in the parking lot.
- 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM will be reserved for a members-only informal potluck.
- Volunteer sign ups will be offered during the dance.
- Andie Johnston will supervise the craft table that will be offered for kids.
- Cornbread and Tortillas artist group proposal for 2027 mainstage and Master Artist series.
 - Sue Bertram is reporting that both events total nearly \$18,000. This includes the 2027 festival performance and 2027 master artist series events in the local schools.
 - The Music Selection Committee has not indicated that they are comfortable with moving forward with this.
 - Dick Pierson explained that there may be a misunderstanding between the MSC and the Events Committee, and that they were under the impression that the entire artist cost would come from the 2027 Music Selection Committee budget. Sue Bertram indicated that only the portion that covers the 2027 main stage performance should come from the Music Selection Committee. Dick Pierson will communicate with John Gillette and the rest of the committee to make sure there is a clear understanding and decisions can be made accordingly.
 - Susan Divine requested that board members receive materials to review Cornbread & Tortillas and their material to ensure it fits the HMC mission statement.
- Blackrocks beer release will be held on July 1st at Blackrocks Brewery from 6 PM - 8 PM. Festival tickets will be available for purchase on site.
- A pre-fest concert will be held on July 9th at Ore Dock Brewery. Annie & Rod Capps quartet will perform from 6 PM - 8 PM on the patio. Tickets will be available on site, and this will be the last day for ticket sales before the festival.
- The committee is scheduling as many future events as possible before the festival to allow the events to be listed in the program for community awareness of those events.

- Lee Ossenheimer has contacted The Make Believe Spurs about ideas for Preserving The Roots workshops. They are working to come up with some workshops that can be offered.
- August concerts at The Fold
 - Kitty Donahoe will be available on August 13th, at The Fold, for a full concert with a cost of \$400.
 - Randy Sepela and Reverend Robert Reynolds are available on August 27th, at The Fold, for \$500.
 - Both of these events can be ticketed events that can go through the new ticketing platform for sales and admission.
 - **Tom moves to approve \$900 for the Events Committee for the two events on August 13th and August 27th.**
 - **Seconded by: Lee Ossenheimer.**
 - **The motion carried.**
- Membership Committee from Sue Bertram.
 - There is a social event planned for Friday night in the food tent at the festival between 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Some light hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided to members.
 - Katrina Keough has designed and ordered bandanas from Getz's that will be exclusive to members who choose to renew their memberships during the festival.
 - The annual membership meeting is scheduled to be held at Barrel and Beam on November 7th.
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson has an update that during the festival ticket sales period, we have sold 33 memberships for \$4,350.
 - 27.1% of memberships are currently set up to auto renew.
- Fundraising/Sponsorship Committee from Ann Fisher
 - The committee members are working on names and design ideas for the *In Memoriam* section on the trailer for the festival.
 - There is a planned email blast to members and ticket buyers, to advertise the opportunity to purchase signs to display at the festival.
 - The committee is working on preparing targeted giving opportunities for donations. This may turn out to be different QR codes that can be scanned for targeted donations at the membership tent at the festival.
 - Heather Picotte and Heather Griffith have done tremendous work on a Community Foundation of Marquette County grant for support for HOTAP in particular.

- We are still waiting to hear back on a Hirvonen Foundation grant application.
 - Marquette Rotary grant: We applied for \$2,500 and were awarded \$750.
 - Travel Marquette grant: We applied for \$1,000 and were awarded \$500.
 - Donations during ticket sales on the website have totaled \$191.77.
- Facilities & Equipment Maintenance Committee from Lee Ossenheimer.
 - Sue Bertram and Mary Tilson planted flowers and have helped with outdoor clean up around the office facility.
 - New light bulbs have been installed, a new cabinet display from Getz's has been brought in for merchandise display, and the committee has been working on cleaning up and beautifying the outdoors area at the office facility.
 - The new light tower that was purchased with grant money has arrived and is getting assembled and marked with HMC markings. It will likely be stored in the front of the semi trailer alongside our riser stage.
 - Lee Ossenheimer is researching and comparing cost and supply options to purchase around 100 tables at 8 feet in length, to be used at the festival with recently awarded grant money. This plan includes selling the old wooden tables once the new tables arrive.
- Ad-Hoc Committees
 - Finance Committee from Tom Dummer.
 - The committee is currently working to gather a complete understanding of minimum operating expenses.
 - Susan Divine has put together a Hiawatha P&L statement that includes 2018 - 2024 expenses and income. It will be reviewed at the next Finance Committee meeting and they will be ready to make recommendations to the board.
 - Bell Financial is currently charging a fee of 1.5% on the money they manage for HMC. The committee will be exploring other options that may be lower than a 1.5% fee.
 - **Tom moves to change the Finance Committee to a permanent standing committee.**
 - **Seconded by: Ann Fisher.**
 - **The motion carried.**
 - Board Eligibility Requirements Review Committee
 - The committee will meet to review revisions and suggestions ahead of the next Board meeting in August.

Old Business

- Board Retreat
 - The retreat is scheduled for Sunday, November 8th, after the annual membership meeting, from 9 AM - 2 PM.
 - A sub-committee needs to be assembled to ensure preparation and duties for the retreat can be shared amongst board members.
 - Office merch area rebuild
 - Lee Ossenheimer transported cabinetry from Getz's for a merchandise display in the office.
- Economic Impact Study
 - Sue Bertram recently signed paperwork and is waiting on next steps.
 - An online survey at the festival is needed for the festival, including QR codes in the festival program, paper copies available, and main stage announcements.
 - There is a need to have an individual designated to work on this at the festival.

New Business

- No board meetings will be held in July.
- FARM Conference (Oct 22-25, 2026 Minneapolis, MN)
 - The 2026 Master Artist Series performances will be taking place at this time.
 - Dick Pierson, Lee Ossenheimer, Mary Tilson, and an additional undecided representative from the Music Selection Committee will plan to go to Minneapolis to attend this conference.
 - Candice Blackstone-Larson reports that one of our grants will cover around \$1,200 of the expenses.
- International Folk Alliance
 - This conference will be held in Chicago in January of 2027.
 - There is a discussion about the possibility of sending some people here for professional development and networking.
- Admin Update
 - Sarah Gimpl is planning to move and leave the Marquette area.
 - She will likely present a remote work proposal to continue some of her job duties remotely.
 - If she leaves her position, there will be a need to fill her position.

Festival & Directors Report

- Ticket Update from Candice Blackstone-Larson.
 - \$101,351 in current ticket sales with 683 tickets sold.
 - Section A camping: 21'-30' camper tags sold out, under 20' - tags left.

- Section B camping: 21'-30' - 5 tags left, under 20' - 10 tags left, lots of tent tags left.
- Section C & D: sold out.
- Section E: 10 spots left.
- 40 parking passes have been sold.
- 23 Handicap parking passes have been given out. These passes are given at no cost, and the handicap entrance fee is 50% of the standard entrance fee.
- Raffle Update
 - Luke and Meagan Guindon will co-coordinate the raffle tent.
 - Luke Guindon expresses the intention to collect more local donations and have more targeted bucket raffles. The current size of the tent may limit the amount of bucket raffles that can occur.
 - Lee Ossenheimer suggests that a stand-alone tent may be a possibility to expand the size of the area, which in turn could give the membership tent more room and a whole tent for their area.
 - Erin Smith will be helping to find donations from local community businesses.
 - The raffle license recently arrived in the mail.
 - Susan Divine has collected 12 instruments to put into the raffle.
- First-Aid Update
 - Dr. Kim Parks will be a co-coordinator with Dr. Michael Kates for the First-Aid tent.
- **Lee Ossenheimer moves to enter a closed session at 8:05 PM to discuss issues related to the First-Aid area from the 2025 Festival.**
 - **Seconded by: Ann Fisher.**
 - **The motion carried.**
- **Phil Britton moves to return from closed session at 8:14 PM.**
 - **Seconded by: Ann Fisher.**
 - **The motion carried.**
- Tourist Park
 - There is a new meeting with Tourist Park staff, Lee Ossenheimer, and Candice Blackstone-Larson on Tuesday at 10 AM.
- Transportation
 - We may need another shuttle for the hospitality team to shuttle musicians back and forth to the festival.

Meeting Adjournment

- **Ann Fisher moves to adjourn the meeting.**
 - **Seconded by: Tom Dummer.**
 - **The motion carried.**

Meeting Ended: 8:28 PM.

Next Regular Board Meeting - August 5, 2026, 6:30 PM.