

North Saskatchewan River Museum Society

Organizational Meeting & Potluck

Wednesday, May 21, 7 p.m.

Sharon Skage home, 4604 Ada Bld

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Denis Wall, Sharon Skage, Billie Milholland, Tim Marriott, Cheryl Mahaffy, Peter Mahaffy (leaving early)

Regrets: Naomi Mcilwraith, Myrna Kostash

Others interested: Duane Burton, Robert N. Pruden, Linda Goyette, Allan Chambers, Walter Ridgway, Cathie Olsen

Overview comments

- Those present reviewed and endorsed the society objects as itemized in the application to form a society. (That application remains under review.)
- Animated discussion reflected a strong sense of the importance of this initiative. All agreed that the NSRM could become a connecting point and/or repository for diverse and important bits of heritage now scattered along the river for want of a home. The Elk Point Historical Society, for example, has an immense private collection built up by Steve Andrishak. Billie recalls helping Steve dig for treasure around fort ruins.
- A virtual museum seems most pressing—a website where artifacts and information could be viewed from around the world. We envision a site that depicts the river, with clickable dots along its length that bring users to information and visuals exploring various places, times and topics. Perhaps users could load a portion of this website on a portable device and carry it with them while canoeing the river. Funds are needed to design, launch and populate this as a standalone website.
- We agreed to pursue funding through Virtual Museum of Canada to begin a standalone website. The current draft website posted by Denis Wall, which will be eliminated when the new one is developed and has its own domain name.
- Later, if opportunities arise to use all or part of a building, we may wish to consider adding that component. Decommissioning of Edmonton's Rossdale power plant might present one such opportunity. (EPCOR website says power generation at the Rossdale site is scheduled to end in 2009 and EPCOR is committed to retaining the historical buildings at Rossdale, and finding an adaptive re-use for them that reflects the community's values and priorities.)
- Billie described her hope that work continue on pursuing cultural heritage river status for this river. The North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, where she works, has made headway in that process but now is sidetracked by the need to respond to development pressures impacting the river. This could become a future focus for us.

Quote of the night:

“The river is like a TV set in a bar. It's always on but nobody watches it.” – Tim Marriott

The following interim decisions will be confirmed at a later general meeting:

- Membership fee: \$20.
- President: Denis Wall
- Vice President: Sharon Skage
- Treasurer: Tim Marriott
- Secretary: Cheryl Mahaffy

- Director: Billie Milholland (focus: membership)
 - Director: Naomi McIlwraith (focus: research, in concert with Tim and others)
- (Other directors may be added.)

Motion re Logo and letterhead design:

Designer Jennifer Skage will be offered an honorarium of \$260 to design a logo and letterhead for the NSRM.

Moved by Tim Marriott, seconded by Billie Milholland, unanimous agreement.

To-do list:

President and Vice President

- Set a general meeting prior to November 30 and provide at least 60 days notice.
- Arrange other meetings as required.
- Liaise with Alberta Museums Association to ensure we are moving toward eligibility for the association's affirmation program.
- Public relations.

Treasurer:

- Set up bank account when appropriate. (President, vice president, secretary and treasurer to have signing authority.)
- Pursue grants and other funding opportunities.
- Investigate potential for funding from Virtual Museum of Canada (Would require partnering with a small museum. Candidates may include John Walter Museum, Métis Crossing and other small museums along the river.)

Secretary

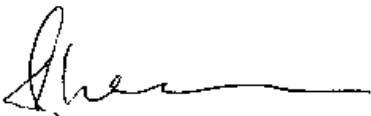
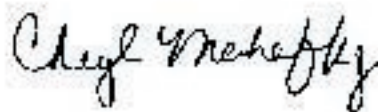
- Prepare and distribute minutes.
- Establish and maintain member e-distribution list, liaising with membership director.

Membership Director

- Solicit memberships.
- Provide contact information to secretary.
- Pass membership dues to treasurer.

Director – Research Focus

- Investigate any similar initiatives so that we learn from them rather than reinventing. (In collaboration with Tim Marriott and others.)

Denis Wall – Chair

Cheryl Mahaffy – Secretary

May 25, 2008