

Board Meeting Summary – June 16, 2010

The first regular board meeting of the 2010/11 MAS Board of Directors was held on June 16th at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon.

Key results of the June meeting were:

- MAS received word that our funding application to the Museums Assistance Program was successful. This is approximately 1 month earlier than we usually receive notification of MAP funding. We will be getting less than we asked for but until more details arrive from MAP we won't know what the precise impact will be on programming. This funding is for use in providing the Association's professional development and training activities for 2010/11.
- The Board appointed the Audit Committee for the new fiscal year. Crystal Craig is the Board representative and Committee Chair with Joanne Grant and Allen Lefebvre both appointed for another year.
- The Board's policy review committee reported their work to date for the benefit of the three new board members. The Board then approved the policy revisions completed since the May 25th meeting, in principle. The ad Hoc Policy Review Committee was reappointed and will include: Wayne Fennig, Ingrid Cazakoff, Gary Young and Janette Hamilton. They will work on fine tuning the revisions approved in principle to governance policies; develop clear, realistic monitoring processes, and develop new policies where necessary. The rest of the Board was encouraged to participate in the policy review process as their time permitted.
- The Board approved in principle the policy monitoring schedule presented. The Policy Review Committee and the Co-Managers will continue working to develop clear, realistic monitoring processes which will provide the Board with the information they need to make appropriate decisions for the Association.
- The Board, after much discussion, decided, unanimously, to withdraw its application to the Virtual Museum of Canada for the GPS Heritage Tour pilot project. There were a number of reasons for this decision including the substantial changes to the project from the initial version which focused on the development and testing of mobile GPS technology as a means of marketing heritage to travelers into a much more educational website based project with a GPS component. As well, the Board did not feel that they would be exercising due diligence if they were to go forward with a project which MAS will never have the resource capacity to expand throughout the province leaving the vast majority of members not involved in the pilot unable to participate. Finally, the Board felt that the timing, given the fact that MAS is beginning an extensive strategic planning process and is short staffed, did not make it feasible to undertake a project of this magnitude at this time.
- The Board undertook the monitoring of several Governance Process and Executive Limitation policies in accordance with their monitoring schedule. While the Board acknowledged the process currently in place is not fully functional it does provide important information regarding how policies are being implemented.
- The Board continues to be concerned with staff overload as the strategic planning process takes place and, therefore, have authorized staff to review program plans for the coming year and determine which activities can be deferred and where contract staff may be needed to complete necessary program activities. Approval was given for the 2010/2011 MAS annual operating budget in principle.

If you have any comments or questions, you can contact us by telephone, mail, or email.

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