Michigan Council for History Education

September 15, 2018

Regular Meeting

Michigan Historical Center

Lansing, Michigan

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Tamara Shreiner.

Those in attendenace: Jim Cameron, Jim McConnell, Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Michelle Anderson, David Zwart, Nick Orlowski, Sean O’Neill, Elaine Themm, Bill Warren, Jana Pisani, Scott Durham, Tamara Shreiner

A nomination was made by Jim McConnell and seconded by Sean O’Neill to elect Tamara Shreiner as President and Executive Director for this year. The motion was unanimously approved.

David Zwart made a Treasurer’s Report, reporting that after added $1,000 from William Randolph Hearst Foundation for running USSYP program, our current balance is 24,136.95 with one pending bill, $20 for non-profit license, which will be paid out soon.

A discussion then was had about the Executive Committee Officers, MCHE referring to MCHE Constitution. Tamara suggested we return to the Constitution and elect leaders and organize the Board so that we can grow and expand our membership in the years to come while working within the organizational structure.

Tamara suggested we nominate and elect within the current board a President-elect who would begin role as President next year. In this transition period, Tamara would serve as both Executive Director and President. The responsibilities of each elected leader are described in the MCHE Constitution.

We do currently have a Secretary and Treasurer who serve two-year terms. David Zwart has currently served in that role for four years. Re-election would still be allowed.

Tamara also suggested that whoever is serving as Secretary shall also be in editor of E-Notes.

Jim McConnell gave us a history of how we got to the point of the current Constitution. He suggested it is a much better organization when the President runs the meetings while the Executive Director helps overseas the organization. He suggested the Secretary might not be the one to be the editor of the E-Notes because of the amount of work required.

Tamara Shreiner suggested we should at least put the E-Notes editorship in the Constitution so that there is a limit to the responsibilities of the job.

David Zwart suggested the defined roles of the officers will be a way to get people involved and a sense of responsibility toward the organization.

Michelle Anderson liked the idea of giving a title to the person in charge of E-Notes so that there is a defined role.

Bill suggested that defined roles might not automatically enliven the organization. Once the roles are defined, we need to think about what now and what we are doing?

Tamara suggested that we put a lot of emphasis and pressure on the Executive Director in the past and that bringing more people into the mix might both share those responsibilities but also look forward to addressing the issues we face as a profession.

Jim McConnell added that we should add a webmaster to the list of officers in the MCHE Constitution.

Tamara suggested that we will look at the MCHE Constitution to offer amendments to the Constitution to be presented at the MCHE Winter Meeting.

Jim McConnell volunteered to head that committee. A motion was made by Jim McConnell (seconded by Bill Warren) to expand the Executive Committee and make any amendments that the committee deems necessary. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Jim Cameron made a report about the pending Social Studies Standards. MDE had another listen and learn session last Thursday and have had close to 4,500 responses via the public survey. We are in the process of putting together a task force that will take the 2007 standards and the various iterations of proposed changes and will develop proposed changes to submit to the State Board of Education. The hope is that everything is done by the March 2019 State Board of Education meeting with tentative adoption in June 2019. If people are interested in joining the task force, they should email Jim directly. The Co-Chairs of the task forces in consultation with MDE will decide who is on committees.

Nominations for President-Elect were entertained. Jim McConnell suggested Michelle Anderson would be great. Tamara will talk with Michelle about her interest in the position.

Tamara will talk with Dick Cooley about serving as Secretary. Elaine Themm is willing to take on the responsibility of E-Notes editor.

The next item on the agenda was for Board nominations and recruitment. The MCHE Constitution allows for 16 people on the Board. We do not have an elementary education person. We do not have a museum person. If you know of anyone who might want to serve on the Board, please send those suggestions to Tamara Shreiner.

The next item on the agenda is Awards. The USSYP applications are due soon. We did more social media blasts and are looking for ways to advertise in Michigan. Tamara Shreiner will have to recuse herself from looking at the applications because she has a daughter applying. She suggested two people are needed to go through the applications to make sure they are eligible. David Zwart, Sean O’Neill, and maybe Gordon Andrews will take on this initial review and send out those eligible.

We moved on to the Great Lakes History Conference. The conference schedule is available. There are 3-4 MCHE presentations. Our Board meeting will be during lunch on Friday, October 12th at noon. The McConnell and Gilder-Lehrman Awards will have a session on Friday from 3:45-5:00pm.

Jim McConnell moved and seconded by Nick Orlowski that sub funds should be paid to Board members who are required to be at the Great Lakes History Conference. The motion was approved unanimously.

David Zwart said reimbursing Michelle Anderson for the awards and ceremony (frames, certificates, shirts, snacks) are ongoing expenses that are approved in the yearly budget.

Jim McConnell moved and Nick Orlowski seconded up to $900 for Great Lakes History Conference reception. The motion was approved unanimously.

A discussion about the meeting schedules for the MCHE ensued. The upcoming meetings will be Oct. 12, 2018 at the Great Lakes History Conference. Then, Saturday, March 2, 2019; then Saturday, June 1, 2019.

David Zwart made the motion to adjourn which was approved unanimously at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Durham – acting secretary