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MGS Board Meeting
MGS Meeting Room
Saturday, 16 July 2005

Present: David Cross, Kent Driessen, Paula Goblirsch, Harold Hinds, Jr., Jean Jensen, Kathy Lund, Gay McClellan, John Mercer, Tom Rice, Duane Swanson, Wesley Waring, Mary Wickersham.

John Mercer called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Minutes of the previous meeting were unavailable for discussion. John called for volunteers to take minutes in the absence of Secretary Linda Balk. No one volunteered; Duane Swanson was appointed to take the minutes. John announced that the Treasurer had received notification from the Internal Revenue Service that confirmed the Society's non-profit status as a 501C-3 organization.

The problems of setting meeting dates, especially during the summer, was discussed, with the possibility that summer meetings may have to be cancelled.

John reported that Rod McCray had resigned from the Executive Committee and that he had been in contact with Roseau County Historical Society Director Charleen Haugen about the possibility of establishing a genealogical society.

Gay distributed two memoranda dated 28 June 2005 from Project Director Darlene Joyce on behalf of the MGS Cemetery Project giving updates on the project, defining issues about the project, proposing solutions, and requesting Board action. The Board spent considerable time discussing how this project interacts with existing committees of the MGS and what the product outcomes of the project might be. After substantial discussion, Harold moved, Mary seconded, that the MGS Board approve, in principle, publication of the project results when the project is complete with the publication format(s) depending on costs of production; meanwhile completed portions [portions may be complete even if only part of a county is finished] will be placed on the MGS website in consultation with the MGS webmaster; further publications will be determined upon recommendations of the MGS Publications Committee to the MGS Board. The motion carried with 1 abstention.

The Board then considered the Dalby database project. A lengthy discussion ensued about the status of various data sets, maintaining the integrity of the component data sets, and what issues surrounded each data set. Harold moved, Kathy seconded, to make the Dalby databases exclusively available only in-house [in the MGS Library] in existing or alternate formats and that, in the spirit of wider accessibility, the Board encourages the Dalbys to present their data (including the data identified as MGS 1 and MGS 2) in any other formats and venues as they wish. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board then considered the issue of the publication of the Kirschner burial cards,

currently being serially published in the Minnesota Genealogist. Kathy moved, Paula seconded, to restate that any publication of the Kirschner burial cards is the responsibility of the MGS Publications Committee. After additional discussion, the motion carried, with 1 abstention.

John read the proposed mission statement of the MGS Library. It was noted that the Board had adopted several years ago a collection development policy; by consensus it was decided to incorporate that statement into the library mission statement. No additional changes/additions were proposed to statement as submitted.

Kathy distributed a written report on Project Growth, noting that the French-Canadian Branch was being re-started; that upcoming targets for work had been identified; and encouraging further consideration of a possible mentoring program (similar to a welcome committee). Finally, Kathy recommended that the project be renamed Continuous Improvement. The chair accepted the final recommendation and renamed the project.

Mary distributed a written report from the MGS Research Committee noting that research requests continue to be received. A total of \$57 had been collected for these services. The possibility of raising fees was suggested and will be investigated further.

Wesley reported that the State Fair booth is moving forward and volunteers to staff it are being solicited.

Wesley distributed a report from the Program Committee noting that the June meeting went well, with approximately 70 paid attendees. The fall meeting will be held at Luther Seminary in the Northwest Hall auditorium. Harold offered a verbal resolution on behalf of the Stevens County Genealogical Society and the Stevens County Historical Society thanking Wesley for his hard work in making this meeting a success.

John reported on the Branch Council's activities, noting that its work continues to go well. Funding remains an issue to be addressed, including the possibility of determining an equitable amount for the branches to assess their members for the support of the MGS. Work on bringing the Minnesota Genealogist up to date is progressing. It was noted that the branches have not been getting bills for storage space and off-premise insurance premiums; these issues will be addressed by the Treasurer and President. John invited board members to a potluck joint meeting with the Branch Council at 6:00 p.m., 2 August 2005, at his home.

David reported from Facilities Management that there existed a need for volunteers to assemble additional shelving for the Library.

Jean reported that staffing the Library is becoming increasingly difficult.

Kent reported that the Property Committee is continuing long range planning about future space requirements, although the urgency is slightly lessened by the removal of the present property from the market. There was discussion of the need for a requirements

list as part of this planning process.

Tom reported for the Government Affairs Committee that the legislature had funded the Minnesota Historical Society at a level equal to last year's base budget with some additional appropriations for keeping 'threatened' historic sites open, funds to permit planning to begin for the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Celebration; and funds to offset losses by MHS not charging for tours of school groups at the State Capitol. Duane thanked MGS board members for their efforts in support of the MHS budget and programs and noted Director Nina Archabal's comments that the History Matters campaign had been very positive.

Paula reported that the Publications Committee continues its work. The MGS brochure is in the process of being revised; the newsletters have been issued on-time. John noted that several issues of the Minnesota Genealogist are in preparation and that the 2004 issues will be combined into a single volume. Harold has several current issues in preparation.

Mary brought up the Irish Genealogical Society International's request for Internet connections at the MGS Library to work on organization activities. David moved, Harold seconded, that the MGS Board authorize activation of a telephone outlet in the MGS office with the MGS telephone number for limited use by the IGSI. The motion carried.

There was no Education Committee report, although the need for continued coordination between educational activities and the work of the Publications Committee was noted.

John reported that the ballot will be mailed shortly after some difficulty in getting the nomination slate finalized.

At 12:15 p.m. Chairman Mercer adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson
Secretary Pro Tem