

Dacotah Prairie Museum Board

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2025

I. Call to Order

- a. Alan Neville called to order the regular meeting of the Dacotah Prairie Museum Board at 3:32pm on June 24, 2025

II. Roll Call

- a. Present: Alan Neville, Rose Kraft, Elisa Sand, Jennifer Dix, Amy Bertsch, Ginny Lewis, Patricia Kendall, and Brandon Duxbury

III. Acceptance of Minutes

- a. **Motion by Elisa Sand to approve the minutes of April 22, 2025. Seconded by Jennifer Dix. Motion carried.**

IV. Discussion Points

- a. Director's Report

- i. Education – School tour and on-site Afternoon in the Past program season hosted 40 classes, 18 schools, 13 towns, 800+ students. Education staff are now in the middle of summer camps and prepping for the upcoming school year. On June 12, the Ed department hosted 45 teachers from Delta Kappa Gamma and their state convention for an evening of adult “APAST” and guided tours through the “Framed” traveling exhibit and the museum’s galleries.

- ii. Exhibits – The Masterworks exhibit was well-received and was the highlight of the art evening event the DPM hosted on May 1. About 30 people attended and enjoyed an evening of viewing and discussing art from the DPM’s permanent collection. The next artwork slated for the MACC in Minneapolis is Frank Ashford’s Marjorie, a portrait of his former wife.

In the Old Squire (gallery space being prepped for the Buntrock Gallery remodel), a pop-up exhibit of student artwork was on display. These pieces were acquired from past student art shows. This exhibit came down the week of June 9.

Traveling Exhibit – “Framed: Step into Art” from the Minnesota Children’s Museum arrived and opened on May 24 in the Lamont and Helen Bergh galleries. One piece was too big to fit in the elevator or come up the stairs and is positioned in the 1st floor elevator lobby. Each of the exhibit components represent a famous artwork for children to interact within. This exhibit runs through Labor Day.

Exhibits department has also installed two photography displays. One from John Eichinger, contemporary photos of automobiles, tractors, and other recreational vehicles is in the Lamont Hallway and the other is a collection of enlarged images of similar recreation from the DPM’s photograph collection depicting the late 19th and early 20th century.

- iii. Collections – continuing the inventory process on special collections within the collection. Most recent are costume jewelry and Native American artifacts. Several contracts have also gone out to donors who have had items accessioned. A recent visit with the Presentation Sisters admin team about the upcoming anniversary of the college that recently closed was held at the new Presentation Place at Mother Joseph Manor. The convent administration will work with both

the exhibits and collections departments to continue preserving and sharing the story of both their institutions.

- iv. Admin – the director is continuing to facilitate the feasibility study process with the Numad Group and foundation board president, Justin Scott and coordinating visits with Terry Birek and Dean Buntrock about the upcoming Buntrock Gallery. Also, a recent grant request through 3M was approved to the next level. The grant will be for DPM STEM Camp in 2026 at \$7,000.
- v. Events – DPM hosted a Trivia Night Fundraiser on June 12 at the Expo, Brown County Fairgrounds with 25 participants. The event was well-received and the staff plans to do another trivia night.

b. Financial Report

- i. County Budget – at 41.6% spent
- ii. May expenses - new billboards and repair, from the City Promotional Funds, \$5,450, Updated Adobe license, \$700, SD Annual History Conference, \$498.
- iii. Upcoming expenses – TripleC window washing, annual all-window cleaning, \$1,300 in June.

V. Old Business

a. Volunteer Recruitment

- i. Recap of Senior Center Visit
 1. Showed off eight quilts and discussed their history and significance
 2. Discussed volunteer opportunities at the museum
 3. Gained two volunteers from it – Dana Nichols and Kristi Johnson are working on inventorying blueprints and architectural drawings from Presentation College
- ii. Volunteer luncheon will be last week of August
- iii. More volunteer recruitment activities planned to coincide with the new Squire opening

VI. New Business

a. Fundraising Update

- i. There is a need to educate more people on everything that we do as an institution
- ii. Three scenarios:
 1. Spend next two years fundraising, we can raise approximately \$2 million in the community with a possible match by Dean Buntrock
 2. Spend next four years fundraising, we can raise approximately \$3.5 million in the community with a possible match by Dean Buntrock
 3. If Dean Buntrock does not contribute, we can raise something but will need to reassess our situation and possibilities
- iii. Moving to a campaign readiness phase
 1. Last approximately one year to organize a steering committee, lay groundwork for big asks, and developing key messaging
 2. Dean B. is willing to donate \$250,000 to get the campaign started

iv. Will naming rights be offered? Yes

b. ASDM – Association of South Dakota Museums

- i. October 19-21 at NSU
- ii. DPM hosting
- iii. “Engage the Past, Inspire the Future”
- iv. Topics include:
 1. Handling Native artifacts and telling Native stories
 2. Collections Management Systems
 3. Volunteer management

4. Grant writing and the South Dakota Community Foundation
 5. Renodry Systems
 6. Brad Tennant
 7. NSU Library/Kramer Center/Germans from Russia – Bea Smith, Robert Russell
 8. Campus Tour – Ric Dias
 9. USA 250th – Ben Jones and David Grabitsky
 10. Air Force archivist – David Van Heusen
 11. DPM department presentations
- c. 2026 Summer Board Project
- i. USA 250th and Presentation Sisters 140th (PC 75th)
 - ii. Include an in-house exhibit and a two-part exhibit of US history for the exhibit and future use
 - iii. Time capsule in Melgaard Park – exhuming sometime in April or May
 1. Formerly owned by Zonta, transferred to the museum when they disbanded, Zonta was a service group
 2. Would like to make this a public event planned by Museum Board
 - iv. Fun run/walk for July 4
 1. Include costume contest for bikes, pets, etc...
 2. End at DPM parking lot or Central Park for food, ice cream, games, etc...
 3. Music – drum corps, tubas, community band
 4. Partner with other groups, non-profits, or businesses
 - v. Constitution Day at NSU in August
 1. Make this bigger than it usually is
 2. Series of history talks with SD Humanities and/or local historians
 - vi. Presentation Sisters will be celebrating 140 years in Aberdeen, Presentation College would have been 75
 1. In-house exhibit highlighting their history in the community
 2. Interactive project of identifying over 10,000 photos we received from PC when they closed – possibility of scanning them so it can be done digitally
- d. Art Reception
- i. May 1, 5:30-7:00 pm
 - ii. Special event for donors and supporters of the museum to enjoy the Masterworks Exhibit, appetizers, mocktails, and music
- VII. CVB Update
- a. None
- VIII. Adjourn
- a. **Motion by Jennifer Dix to adjourn. Seconded by Ginny Lewis. Motion carried.**
Adjourned 4:23pm
- IX. Next Meeting
- a. August 26 @ 3:30pm, Sue Gates Conference Room, Dacotah Prairie Museum