

## MINUTES OF MGS COUNCIL MEETING 19 MARCH 2016

The meeting was held at the MGS Library. Present were Jim Oke(President), Ginny Braid, Gord McBean, Janice Butcher, Mary Bole, Judith Roe, George MacKay (SW Branch), Dave Farmer, Linda Wray, Jim Rutherford, Susan Thorpe, Bill Curtis, Kathy Stokes (Minute taker).

Regrets: Pat Sundmark

- 1.Meeting was called to order at 10.05 am
2. The agenda was adopted as presented with added suggestion under New Business to plan a fund raiser for the autumn
3. Motion – Jim Rutherford, Gord McBean: That the minutes of the Council meeting of September 19, 2015 be adopted as circulated. PASSED
4. Business arising from the minutes:
  - 4.1 MANI and revised website – see attached report and later comments
  - 4.2 The lease on our premises has been signed for a further three year term, beginning in July 2016.

### 5. REPORTS

5.1 The President reported on a new cultural strategy being developed by the government has been announced for the Department of Culture Tourism Heritage etc. No advance notice or contact had been made with the 7 provincial heritage organizations, so these groups held a meeting at which they wrote a letter to the government asking for inclusion in their plans. Jim Oke signed the letter on behalf of MGS.

Jim has met with our granting body representative, Mark Stroski . Things are going along quite well and they are satisfied. Our new application for project funding must be in their hands by the end of March.

5.2 SW Branch – George was warmly greeted by the meeting and reported on the SouthWest Branch activities. They are currently without a president but hope to rectify this situation soon. Their fundraising dinner will be held on April 6 in Brandon – tickets are available. Elizabeth Briggs will be visiting for a session on family history in early April.

SE/ Winnipeg branch report was given by Ginny Braid (see attached)

Regretfully, we learn that the Swan Valley branch has ceased operations. Correspondence between MGS president and their president is imminent. Mary Bole will contact them about possible donations to the MGS Library, if they have not dispersed their collection already.

5.3. VP Administration report was given (see attached). Questions were asked about reminders for renewal of expiring memberships. There have been some problems with MANI which are on the way to being solved. Note was made of a retirement party for two Tuesday volunteers – Lynn Francis and Louisa Shermerhorn, held in late December at the home of Joyce Elias.

5.3.1 Members hip report was given by Susan Thorpe (see attached) Total membership is 556.

5.3.2 Research report from Jim Rutherford indicates that times are slow. \$316.00 has come in since January 1.

5.3.3 Special Projects report indicated that cemetery sales are also slow (See attached.)

5.4 Communications VP report from Janice (see attached). The web redesign proposal was

approved by the MGS Executive earlier in the week with total funding of \$5000 allotted from the Capital Campaign. Mark Nelson who has worked for us before will be upgrading the site. It was noted that SW Branch has its own website, but they can make us of the MGS one as well if desired.

A remodelled brochure will soon be printed when Janice has finished incorporating revisions and suggestions from this meeting. We will use the Friesen Printers credit to pay for them. It was also noted that a new list of committee chairs is needed.

5.4.1 A lengthy discussion ensued regarding Generations. The editor is in need of more material. Also the meeting considered when and if to stop printing generations and use only on line methods to send out the journal. Some societies already do this. Suggestion was made that we tell new members that they will only receive the journal electronically. Final decision about this has not yet been made and further discussion will follow.

MOTION – George, Gord: That the updated brochure be modified to show that new members will receive Generations electronically. Passed.

It was noted that sending Generations by mail to the half of our members who now receive it that way costs nearly \$5 000 yearly.

There are many new viewers of our Facebook page.

5.4.2 Outreach Chair Bill Curtis notes that he has had some requests for information session that are difficult to fill such as Japanese because we do not have adequate information on research facilities for them. He has participated in Creative Retirement sessions and a Louis Riel Library session is upcoming. Bill will contact the Manitoba Museum about Manitoba Day celebrations on May 14.

5.5 VP Information Technology (See attached report) Gord mentioned that two computers on site have crashed and one has been repaired thus far. The KOHA index needs some refining. Grant applications have been sent out to assist in computer changes and upgrades.

5.6 VP Finance is absent. Linda distributed current financial activity sheets

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Provincial heritage agencies – see President's report

6.2 Swan Valley branch closing – see President's report

6.3 Generations delivery costs – See Generations editor's comments above

6.4 & 6.5 Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015 is being reviewed. Some targets have been met or acted upon but there must be emphasis placed on developing a Corporate Donations Committee to assist in raising funds. Council was asked to review the strategic plan and to come prepared to discuss it at the specially planned Council meeting in April.

There are more memberships coming in from outside the province because we can now offer PayPal as a payment option. We need to emphasize this option as well as looking into estate planning possibilities.

Next Council meeting will occur in Portage la Prairie on April 26 at 10 am. Time and place not yet determined.

