



Collect. Preserve. Educate.
The Campbell County Rockpile Museum
tells the story of the Powder River Basin.

**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the
CCRM Board of Directors
April 18, 2023 at the Rockpile Museum, 6:00 PM**

A. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Lucas Fralick, presiding officer.

Present: Museum Board Members: Lucas Fralick, Rita Cossitt Mueller (via Zoom), Rocky Marquiss, Jane Gebhart, and Tom Holm

Museum Staff: Director Robert Henning

Guests: John & Kate Satterly, Mary Stroka

B. Approval of Agenda

Jane moved to move the museum trip to 1 in Old Business. Rocky Seconded. Motion carried

Board reviewed agenda and Pres. Lucas Fralick called for changes or corrections.

Lucas moved the Legacy of the Plains museum trip to item 1 in Old Business. Jane moved to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as amended, Rocky seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Consent Agenda

Lucas Fralick asked the board if they wished for any items to be removed from the consent agenda. No items were requested removed. Rita moved to approve all items of the consent agenda as presented; Jane seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously.

D. Collections Report

A motion was made by Tom to approve the staff recommendations regarding the donations; seconded by Rocky. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Museum Program Updates

- I. Visitation Reports
- II. Education Reports
- III. Schedule:

Apr. 20: RMA Board Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
Apr. 25: CCCD Ag Expo at CAM-PLEX
Apr. 29: Dance Through the Decades Fundraiser
May 5-6: 2nd Annual PRB Shepherders Festival
May 15: Fu Go Balloon Bomb Presentation, 7:00 p.m.
May 16: Museum Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
May 17: GALI Visits Museum, 8:00 a.m.
May 18-22: Dir. Henning to AAM in Denver
May 18: RMA Board Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
May 23: Rock Art Presentation by John and Mavis Greer, 6:00
May 29: Memorial Day – Museum OPEN
June 3: Summer Reading Kickoff at CCPL
June 3: World Atlatl Day at Museum, 9:00 to 4:00
June 5: Camporee Site Visit
July 17-22: ProRodeo Museum Takeover
July 22: Old Ironsides Steam and Shine Tractor Show
Sep. 16: Northeast Wyoming Archaeology Fair

F. Old Business

- I. Legacy of the Plains Museum Field Trip Follow-up

The field trip started at the Wyoming Pioneer Memorial Museum on April 13th. Followed by the Glendo Historical Museum. The trip continued at Ft Laramie where we spent approx. three hours on a guided tour of the facility before having to leave. The pinnacle of the trip was on April 14th, Robert Henning, Justin Horn, Lucas Fralic and Rocky Marquiss was given a tour by the director David Wolf. Following we had a good visit about how they operate, do fund raising and manage the museum.

- II. RMA Updates

- III. Museum Budget for FY23-24

Budget is completed and submitted. Provisional budget by end of May and full approval on 3rd Monday of the month of June.

- IV. Mobile Homestead Shack Trailer

The paperwork has been totally transferred from the RMA to County. Some minor work has to be completed by the vendor. It is currently sitting in the storage area.

V. County Employee Day

Employees of Campbell County are allowed free admission this Saturday, April 22.

VI. New Museum/Capital Campaign Update

VII. 2023 Summer Internship

G. New Business

- I. Brief Updates from Director Henning
- II. Camporee Update and Admission Fees

It is estimated that 1,800-2,000 people will attend from the Camporee. (Tom excused himself from the meeting for other obligations).

Rocky moved to charge \$8,000 for an estimated 2,000 in attendance. Jane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

H. General Discussion

- I. Public Comment

John Satterly visited with us about some of his suggestions and concerns about the museum. Document that he submitted is included below. He expressed concern about research limitations, difficulties in reaching out to the community and getting people involved.

Comments submitted by John Satterly

Thank you to the board for listening. Gillette can be a difficult place to be heard. Hopefully this will clear up the first letter. These are some of the problems and possible solutions. My goal is to start the process, not specific changes.

The museum is not teaching local history to parts of the community. It misses opportunities to relate the past to present and to engage with new residents, those on the fringe, and the community as a whole.

- During the pandemic, people looked to the history of the Spanish Flu. Fill that need.
- Local surveyors and geologists often see minerals and pass them over.
- Make a crash course guide for new residents about the culture, history, economy, etc.
- Try to reach the unreachable - detention facility, YES house, etc. have libraries.
- Reach ethnic groups who have isolated themselves into small communities.

The museum is not a good research center. It doesn't empower people to do their own research. There is too much unneeded friction or difficulties.

- Organize the books in the research area. Too difficult to find anything.
- List all books and materials on WorldCat and WyldCat. Easier to search.

- Time the research computer from cold boot to actually being searchable.
- Create a Wiki using Media Wiki which is used by Wikipedia.
- Saves institutional knowledge of employees before they leave.
 - Allows contributions by the public and professionals.
 - Access controls and logins can be configured however needed.
 - Allows people to do their own research from anywhere at anytime.
 - Puts all the biography files, notes, and other information online.
 - Structures information which makes it easier to add to over time.
 - Collaboration of employees over many years.
 - Keeps logs of who did what and when they did it.
 - Allows reversing edits if need be.
 - Hosts important media files that will never be in the permanent collection.
 - Establishes museum as an authority on the topic online.
 - Etc.

Museum displays are not meeting the needs of visitors. There is no coherent theme or message presented. People have a limited amount of energy to expend and the museum eats up too much with it's hard to track displays. The eye doesn't seem to know where to go. It is chaos.

- Like a business, create a customer profile. Books on museums have done this already.
- Replace ancient yellowed and curling labels.
- Text is too small on almost every label and display.
- Some labels and text are blocked by other objects.
- Label all objects.
- All designs should support the information and then the main museum theme.
- Indian artifacts should show us at least one complete object, not just remnants.
- Think big.
 - A full 1970s trailer to explore set just like the boomtimes.
 - A walk-through exhibit of natural grass/shrubs with a full-sized buffalo.
 - A full haul truck people can climb into and sit in (not drive).
 - An introduction video used online as an advert as well.
 - Hands on for culturally important items - deactivated gun, coal, etc.
 - Digital book of life containing every known species in the county.
- Don't be afraid to coin new terms. Rawhide Village Disaster.
- Ask questions of every display before and after.
 - Why does this matter?
 - What will they learn?
 - Who is this for?
 - How is this important to us locally?
 - How does this meet their needs?
- Work with human nature, not against it. People expect rocks at the Rockpile Museum.
- People need entertained, but the displays do not need to be fun and games.
- The museum is not aesthetically pleasing.

The museum is not proactively collecting. It is reactive. It waits for people to bring in objects. It rarely makes an effort to collect important history. It's easier to get important things now than to wait until after it's gone. Don't rely on the News-Record for everything. Their goals, motivations, and methods are different. The US Congress sends people out to document life in the United States every so often.

- Take photos of historical buildings still standing.
- Collect oral history from long-time residents before they die.
- Take videos of the area both of nature and people.
- Collect old videos from the public. Some are already online now.
- Collect mineral specimens of every mineral ever identified in the county.
- Attempt to get access or rights to old newspaper and magazines.
- Digitize and add all the old property assessor photos.
- Try to get the city and county government to make all works public domain.
- Collect published reports by local governments; citizen surveys and yearly reports.

- Collect stories and objects during major historical events (COVID) when they happen.
- Save everything from GPA-TV. They threw out everything once before.

II. Other

I. Adjourn

There being no further business, Rita moved to adjourn the meeting; Jane seconded the motion, meeting was adjourned by Board President Lucas Fralick at 7:22 p.m.

The next regular CCRM Board Meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023** at 6:00 p.m. at the museum.

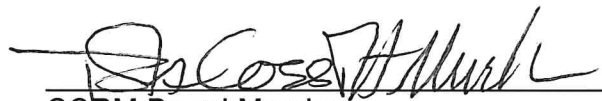
April 18, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes submitted by Board Secretary Rocky Marquiss.



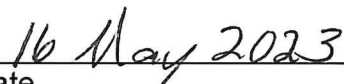
CCRM Board Member



Date



CCRM Board Member



Date