

## Wisconsin Archeological Society

Spring Business Meeting

Saturday 4/25/15

Aldo Leopold Legacy Center - Baraboo, Wisconsin

Total members present - 24

Board members present - 8

*Quorum met*

Call to order by Kurt Sampson at 10:04am

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Secretary's report - read by Jake Pfaffenroth

Since the Fall 2014 meeting the board voted via email on several issues:

- Approved the 2015 budget
- Approved an expenditure of \$1700 for tree-removal work at Heim Mound
- Approved the Awards Committee spring 2015 report so that award winners could be notified prior to the spring meeting

There was discussion about term length for elected and appointed roles. There needs to be an election for directors-at-large in the Fall.

motion to approve secretary's report by seth second by joe approved by board

Motion to approve Fall 2014 minutes by Nurre, seconded by Monarski, approved by board

Treasurer's report - read by Sampson (Jake Rieb not present)

The annual tax forms were filed with the IRS in March, and the corporation report with the State of Wisconsin.

One of the CD accounts (1 year term) Maturity on 4/11. The interest (\$40) was deposited into our checking as income for 2015. The CD renewed for another 1-year term at the same 0.40% interest. The second CD account is a two-year term and will mature in 2016. A third \$10,000 CD account will be created as was authorized by the board.

Nurre noted that membership is down 100 individual members and 49 other members. Sampson suggested that it might be due to the fall 2014 journal issue not coming yet, which will serve as a reminder for 2014 members to renew for 2015. Broihahn suggested sending out reminder emails about renewal.

Treasurer Jake Rieb has done this in the past with success.

Editorial committee report - read by Connie Arzigian

The Fall 2014 issue took longer than expected to produce but is over 300 pages total - substantially larger than even the full-year issues, and it is only a half-year issue. All articles were peer-reviewed. As a result, the cost was over the budgeted amount but is being subsidized by private donations by "Jim Theler's Colleagues and Friends".

There are a series of very full issues coming up in Spring 2015 and Fall 2015 (possibly turned into a double issue).

The total journal series is now digitized as PDF through 2010 and are searchable. The Board now needs to decide on a price to sell the complete set of indexed issues (through 2010). These will also be made individually available for sale as PDFs on the website.

A motion was made by Arzigian to have Website and Media Committee Chair Jake Pfaffenroth research an appropriate cost for a USB drive archive of the “complete set” for sale. Seconded by Nurre, approved by the board.

#### Education and Outreach - read by Sampson (Jaremy Cobble not present)

The Society had a display table at the Milwaukee Public Museum Archaeology Day

Some Important dates:

- May is Wisconsin Archaeology Month
- May 16th: Archaeology Day on Doty Island at Smith Park - mound tours, artifact ID tables
- May 17th - Friends of Aztalan spring tour
- May 30th Design presentation of Aztalan Visitor's Center
- Sunday tours at Aztalan are beginning June 21st
- September 18-20 - bus tour to four different Mound sites in Indiana and Illinois

The Midwest Archaeology Conference will be in Milwaukee this year - the Society should have a table. Broihahn suggested the Society sells "Complete Collection" USB drives at the conference.

#### Elections Committee - John Broihahn

Broihahn will create a list of potential candidates for Directors-at-large for election at the Fall 2015 meeting.

#### Preservation of Sites Committee - read by Rob Nurre

Tree removal work at Heim Mound - a tree that was leaning dangerously and several small trees growing out of the mound itself. The City of Middleton paid to have several trees removed near the street. There is a lot of communication with the neighbors any time there is work going on at the mound. The goal of taking care of the Heim Mound is to demonstrate how to properly take care of mounds and removing these trees is part of that. A woodcarver will hand carve scale models of Heim mound using cherry tree wood cut from the property. These can potentially be sold in the future for fundraising.

There are non-native ground plants growing over the mound, which were planted some time in the past as a form of preservation. Some of these were removed.

The property on one side and behind the mound will be up for sale and we need to make sure the realtor and future buyers are aware of the mound.

2015 is the 100th anniversary of the measurement of Heim Mound. The Fall 2015 business meeting will be held about 2 blocks away from the mound. This would be a logical time to update the informational sign with more accurate information. Nurre plans to create a proposal to estimate the cost of updating the display.

The event held after this meeting is to generate ideas for how to take care of mounds and effectively communicate that information to the public and relevant parties. Sara Pfannkuche suggested collaborating with the Wisconsin Archaeological Survey about establishing good mound preservation practices.

The Man Mound was recently burned. The Preservation of Sites committee will collaborate with the Sauk County Historical Society to care for the mound. Broihahn suggested the Society sends a letter to the Sauk County Parks Department thanking them for taking good care of the mound for many years.

Awards committee - read by Kurt (Heather Walder not present)

The Awards Committee recommended that the WASRA award (\$500) be split between “two closely-ranked and well-deserving proposals”. They recommended allocations of:

- \$300 to Rachel McTavish (UW-Milwaukee) to pay for 1.5 carbon isotope samples from deer and bison bones from Oneota contexts in La Crosse and the Lake Koshkonong area

- \$200 to Jake Pfaffenroth (UW-Madison) to pay for 5-6 soil petrographic thin-sections from structures from upcoming excavations at Aztalan

The Awards Committee also adopted a more detailed rubric for evaluating proposals based on the guidelines available on the WASRA page of the WAS website, so that future competitions might have a more standardized method of comparing and ranking proposals.

There have been no new nominations for Ritzenthaler awards or Lapham medals at this time.

#### Programs - Jennifer Picard and Rachel McTavish

A great Spring lecture series has just finished wrapping up in Milwaukee. The winter dinner was very successful. The keynote speech at the dinner was by Bill Green.

#### Chapter president reports

##### Charles E Brown Society - Joe Monarski

There are issues with membership, but there was a good lecture series this year with good attendance. Two lectures were co-sponsored by AIA.

##### Rock River Chapter - Kurt Sampson

There is a bus tour planned for May 30 to visit mounds in Wisconsin.

##### La Crosse - Read by Connie Arzigian

Two lectures by John Hawks and Brian Fagan had excellent attendance and were great lectures.

Three Rivers - Sara Pfannkuche

The excellent lecture series continues

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Issue of the Milwaukee Chapter

Kurt Sampson brought up the issue that the by-laws state that the home chapter of the society is to be in Milwaukee and suggested that the Board may need to change the wording of the by-laws so that Milwaukee is named as the "traditional" or "symbolic" home of the society. Member Tom Sutter asked why the wording is even necessary in the by-laws at all.

Pfaffenroth suggested that Milwaukee doesn't really need to change what they're doing and that they don't need to be a chapter

Rachel McTavish brought up the idea of Program chairs rotating around the state and moving the Winter dinner around the state rather than always having them in Milwaukee.

A motion was made by John Broihahn for the issue to be tabled, and for President Sampson to open an invitation for members to join a committee to address issues of wording in the by-laws. Seconded by Tom Sutter, approved by the board

Other New Business

Jake Pfaffenroth announced the UW-Madison field school at Aztalan (May 26-June 19) and welcomed members of the Society to visit the excavations. He asked for permission to promote the project through the Society in ways that align with the missions of the Society, particularly education.

The Audubon Society has acquired property with cultural resources and asked for feedback on the wording of a small private property sign to protect the cultural resources on the property.

John Broihahn brought Archaeology month posters to share.

Broihahn shared that a Man Mound National Historic Landmark designation is moving through the park service. It would be formally approved in November 2015. He asked that the Society would write a letter of support for the nomination of Man Mound for National Historic Landmark status. Motion to write a letter made by Monarski. Seconded by Tom Sutter, approved by the board.

Member Dave Weier suggested putting together a list of mound sites in Wisconsin that can be publicly visited. Pfaffenroth offered to create a section of the website for this information. Broihahn said he has text that he can offer.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Pfaffenroth, seconded by Seth Schneider, approved by the board.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:55am