

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2024

1. Call to Order

Bjorn Rektorli called the meeting to order at 10:04am

2. Approval of the meeting and agenda

Mette Bowen moved to accept the meeting agenda and Dave Nordin seconded followed by approval.

3. President's Report by Bjorn Rektorli

The appraisal of the Bennett Street property was \$500K but the owner (Gary) has balked at the amount believing it was lower than his desire of \$2 million dollars.

The Geneva History Museum 2023 exhibit was a success by all measures of interest. The 2023 Viking ship season was above average with 2,109 visitors with \$26,000 revenue.

The website maintenance and development project are now complete giving us a better platform to build upon.

The Annual Report was completed by November in 2023. All regulatory filings are completed and up to date. Unfortunately, FOVS was disqualified for the Better Business Bureau (BBB) accreditation due to multiple factors discussed in October 2023 Board meeting.

4. Vice President's Report by Dave Nordin

A goal in 2023 for 2024 is the recovery and restoration of Viking's faering currently located at the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa. Dave contacted the curator of the Chicago Maritime Museum who is herself looking for a small boat repair person and will share their results with us. A group from FOVS will be visiting Vesterheim the following week to take pictures and get dimensions of the boat to provide a conservator. Bjorn mentioned the existence of DuluthFaering.org, a company that builds and repairs small wooden boats.

The end of year special occasion at the GHM was a success and was in a way of a trial of possibly an annual event juxtaposed to the Swedish Days in June. Two newspapers carried the event which had a draw of the Eagle Scout making Viking shields for the FOVS.

The Viking head and tail was moved from GHM to the Geneva Library by Chicago Fine Arts Solutions for \$4950. All went well even though the process "was a hair-raising ordeal" with the use of a crane to hoist the two artifacts up to the second floor. Donations by two individuals covered the cost of the move. The library is very excited about having the head and tail on display along with five of the newly-

acquired ship shields. There is the potential for up to 100,000 visitors this year at the library, mostly younger viewers.

Security at the library was brought up by Jamie Larson. It was reported that the exhibit is roped off and library staff are positioned close by.

Dave closed his report stating he believed 2023 was a most exciting year for the Viking Ship, even comparing it to 1893.

5. Treasury Report 2023 by Bjorn Rektorli

Bjorn reported equity of \$422,000 at the end of 2023 with physical inventory of \$9,600. More books are ordered and are good sellers for FOVS.

6. Maintenance and Conservation Report by Dave Barrows

There are plans for preparing the shelter for the first open day, with the hanging of flags and vacuuming of the ship. There is a meeting ahead with Midwest Groundcovers to discuss the replacing of the shelter covering. The plywood panels on the south side were removed to help facilitate the installation of the new covering which is going to be installed over the old covering. This will provide a thicker covering while helping to mitigate some of the friction of a single covering moving on the metal frame. Peter Orum has provided the covers since the days of Beldon Construction.

7. Collection Report by Andrew Woods

We received a crystal representation of a generic Viking ship. Andrew was looking into some explanation of the process of faering restoration.

8. Old Business

8.1. 26 N. Bennet Street update with Michael Olesen

Michael reviewed the history with property. The owner, Gary is holding firm on a \$2million price. A new appraisal was performed on January 31 and the report is forthcoming. It was surmised that the structure of the building is sound and could potentially well accommodate the needs of the Viking ship with a nice river backdrop. Potentially, there is a future issue with the removal of the Fox River dam with the change of the river flow should the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers force the project.

Freya's display and programming at the Geneva Library – Dave Nordin

There will be at least four programs at the library dealing with Viking literature.

8.2. Acquisition of a museum grade artifacts registry

Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board has a \$5,000 grant program to help digitize FOVS archival material.

The website transition is now complete, and Bjorn asked that everyone try the site.

Membership and donation database has been loaded and needs to be interfaced with the website that will automatically send out membership reminders.

9. New Business

9.1. 2024 Organizational Goals and Board Committees

Securing a permanent building is the number one priority. The second would be the restoration of the faering boat. The search for original artifacts has been communicated to area organizations. Bjorn said FOVS needs to be diligent in seeking items now because of time. The BBB accreditation is being sought in 2024.

9.2. Bjorn described the committee assignments and expressed open areas with descriptions of the duties. An important note to double-down on the discovery of any artifacts related to the ship. Bjorn referenced this effort as a "last call" to regain possession of these lost artifacts.

9.3. The Annual Report will be ready by either March or April and it will be a digital report. It will include our building search as well as the successful year at the Geneva History Museum.

9.4. Bjorn discussed the request by the museum in Norway, IL to move the ship there. It was met by disapproval.

10. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 Noon.