

THE MUSE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2025 - 4:30 pm - Lake of the Woods Museum Board Room

PRESENT: Lisa Lyle, Karen Ingebrigtsen, Charito Gallivan, Cheryl Mosindy, Reid Thompson (via Zoom), Braden Murray (ex officio), Hannah Edie, Heather Pihulak (Deputy CAO, City of Kenora)

REGRETS: Robert Bulman, Kirsten Fair, Lindsay Koch

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – City of Kenora

Heather Pihulak, Deputy CAO, City of Kenora, attended to meet the Board and provide City updates. Heather reviewed the post-election reappointment process for boards and committees, noting that appointments are council-driven and encouraging current members to reapply following the election.

1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 16:32 by Lisa Lyle.
Land Acknowledgement was read.

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING

Moved by Charito Gallivan, seconded by Hannah Edie that the agenda for the meeting of February 26, 2026 be approved as presented.

Carried.

3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Nil.

4 KNOWLEDGE OF FRAUD AND LEGAL MATTERS

Nil.

5 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Cheryl Mosindy, seconded by Hannah Edie that the minutes of the January 29, 2026 meeting be approved as presented.

Carried.

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

7 FINANCIAL

7.1 Operating Budget vs Actuals for Art Centre and Museum for January 2026

- The Operating Budget vs Actuals report for January 2026 was received for information.
- Memberships were noted as largely on track overall, with strength in institutional and benefactor/sponsor categories while family memberships continued to lag.
- Staff highlighted January activity including ArtsVest-related matching funds supporting March Break sponsorship, planned improvements to email security through migration to City servers, and ongoing strength in the rental program with repeat customers.
- Staff also noted the replacement of two staff computers as part of maintaining secure and reliable operations, and continued efforts to build an email list to support future travelling exhibit promotion.

7.2 January 2026 expenses – Museum and Art Centre

Moved by Karen Ingebrigtsen, seconded by Cheryl Mosindy that the January 2026 expenses for the Lake of the Woods Museum in the amount of \$3,188.81 be approved.

Carried.

Moved by Charito Gallivan, seconded by Hannah Edie that the January 2026 expenses for the Douglas Family Art Centre in the amount of \$12,151.83 be approved.

Carried.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Nil.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

Nil.

10 DECISION ITEMS

10.1

Moved by Charito Gallivan, seconded by Karen Ingebrigtsen that Dennise Pemmican be appointed to the Muse Indigenous Advisory Committee.

Carried.

11 DISCUSSION ITEMS

11.1 Repatriation Policy and Next Steps

- The Board discussed repatriation policy and next steps.
- Staff summarized a recent meeting with Grand Council Treaty #3 representatives and noted that relationship-building and community engagement will be important to inform policy development.
- Opportunities for outreach and participation in community gatherings were discussed, including going to Powwows and seniors gatherings, as part of ongoing reconciliation work, alongside the intention to develop a draft repatriation policy over the coming year.
- There was a brief reminder of the Museum position with the Edwards collection.

Heather Pihulak exited at 5:03PM.

12 INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1 Director's Report

- Staff advised the Muse Newsletter (Vol. 36 #1) is scheduled for distribution by the end of February, with the 2025 Annual Report included with that communication.
- Staff shared a marketing update that a new Muse sign was installed over a covered window area that is highly visible from the Main Street dock.
- At the Douglas Family Art Centre, staff noted environmental conditions remained stable through the polar vortex, Humidifier #4 was repaired, and Q-Sys system upgrades were nearing completion.
- At the Museum, staff noted recent maintenance items were addressed, including repairs following a boiler hose leak and pipe replacement work in the crawl space.
- Staff summarized recent professional development participation across several sector sessions and webinars.
- Programming updates were provided, including ongoing delivery to schools and community groups and a PD Day sponsored admission program.

12.2 Strategic Plan Report Card

- Staff provided an update on operating funding work, noting conversations with the Ontario Arts Council. We have been given the final word that because we have a Museum and Art Centre in our governance structure we are not

eligible for operational funding. The silver lining is that while we were not sure if we could apply for other programme funding, that has been confirmed that we can.

- Revenue-generating initiatives were discussed, including planning for free summer tours and exploration of a custom "Husky the Muskie" plush project, with production options and costs under review.
- Staff noted professional development planning continues, including a staff visit to Winnipeg in April to support learning and peer networking.
- Progress toward Category "A" designation for the Douglas Family Art Centre was reviewed, including work on a Fire Safety Plan and continued development of a security policy intended for Board review.
- Staff also discussed the potential value of specialized conservation training opportunities through external partners.

12.3 2025 Annual Report

The 2025 Annual Report was received for information.

- There was a brief discussion about the newsletter, and its length. There will be a one page summary coming out in the newsletter as well.

13 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

14 IN CAMERA SESSION

Nil.

15 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

16 NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at 4:30 pm in the Museum Board Room on March 30, 2026.

17 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Hannah Edie, seconded by Charito Gallivan that the meeting be adjourned at 17:31.

Carried.