

Village of Mukwonago
Notice of Meeting and Special Library Board Meeting Agenda

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Monday, April 22, 2024

Time: **6:00 pm**

Place: **Mukwonago Community Library, 511 Division Street, Mukwonago, WI 53149
and via Zoom**

Zoom info

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89703931716?pwd=K3VrRlpPOG5zSS80WHdSallXdnA5UT09>

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

3. Comments from the Public

The Public Comment Session shall last no longer than fifteen (15) minutes and individual presentations are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. These time limits may be extended at the discretion of the Chief Presiding Officer. The Board may have limited discussion on the information received, however, no action will be taken on issues raised during the Public Comment Session unless they are otherwise on the Agenda for that meeting. Public comments should be addressed to the Board as a body. Presentations shall not deal in personalities personal attacks on members of the Board, the applicant for any project or Village employees. Comments, questions and concerns should be presented in a respectful professional manner. Any questions to an individual member of the Commission or Staff will be deemed out of order by the Presiding Officer.

4. Discussion/Action Items

4.a Red Brick Museum Flooring Project

Discussion and possible action regarding informational presentation by the Mukwonago Historical and Museum Society about plans for "phase 2" of the flooring project at the Red Brick Museum.

[Letter to Mukwonago Community Library_2024 Move Assistance Request Phase2 rev2.pdf](#)

[Response from MHMS to Initial Questions about Phase 2 of RBM Flooring Project 20240418.pdf](#)

[DP Presentation to MHMS and MCL_RBM Flooring and Re-Curation 2024.pdf](#)

5. Referral Items

6. Adjourn

It is possible that a quorum of, members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Please note, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact the Municipal Clerk's Office, (262) 363-6420.



March 22, 2024

Dear Mukwonago Community Library Grutzmacher Committee and Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Mukwonago Historical and Museum Society (MHMS) to request that the Mukwonago Community Library fund a portion of Phase two of the renovation of the museum's Native American room. Specifically, this request relates to re-curating the Grutzmacher collection as described in the presentation Tuesday by Danielle Benden of Driftless Pathways. Completing this work would put the Grutzmacher collection into "future state" as a display that will make the whole community proud. However, as you know, Driftless Pathways has withdrawn from the project and thus MHMS is also asking to employ the same MHMS volunteers that did the room teardown to return the Grutzmacher collection to the room in new display cases. They have been trained by Driftless Pathways to perform this work.

Costs for Phase 2 New Interpretive Exhibit for the Grutzmacher Collection

Item	Cost Estimate	Notes
Exhibit Cases/Furniture Grutzmacher	\$12,000-\$15,000+	2 upright glass displays mobile shelving unit with pullout drawers + freight (optional lighting?).
Exhibit Supplies	\$5,050	Materials needed for artifact mounts, acrylic for pullout drawers, stand offs, acrylic stands, etc.
Interpretive Panels	\$450-\$600	Printed and Delivered. Range depends on sign quantities.

The Society volunteers are continuing to work on the rest of the room to achieve at least a soft opening by June 10, 2024.

As I mentioned in the Zoom call, we also request a copy of Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt's report on the various framed points and other tools. The Society strives to enhance the quality of information that our docents can provide during tours of the room and Ernie's document will help make this possible. This information has source material for new interpretive panels as well.

We would appreciate greatly a reply by April 12, 2024.

Sincerely,

Henry Hecker

President-Mukwonago Historical and Museum Society

Response from MHMS to Initial Questions about Phase 2 of RBM Flooring Project

Purpose: After the April 11, 2024 Library Board meeting where the Board tabled the discussion regarding the “phase 2” of the Red Brick Museum flooring project, Director Armour notified the MHMS Board that the Trustees had questions and were convening a special Board meeting to talk direction with MHMS. Below is the email sent by Director Armour recapping the discussion and the response received by MHMS President Henry Hecker.

From: Abby Armour
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:31 PM
To: Henry Hecker
Cc: Jeff Vanevenhoven RBM; Mukwonago Library Trustee2
Subject: RE: Library Board Discussion on MHMS Request

I received your voicemail and emails. Last Friday I was trying to get work done between meetings and an urgent care visit, so I was unable to respond immediately.

As I stated, the Library Board motioned to table to the conversation because they needed more information. They have received Danielle’s proposal slide show and they understand that MHMS’s latest request is to just take that proposal but cut out Driftless Pathway’s labor.

Since they have only received one scenario throughout this process (namely, that they have to purchase new cases and new curation by June) they felt they needed more information about other options. Their discussion during the Board meeting was whether or not the Library should be spending money on cases and curation when the loan agreement states that housing and curation is the responsibility of the borrowing party, where the old cases are and why they can’t be used, whether or not any of this work could be done in stages, and whether other funding sources have been explored by MHMS. Essentially, the Library Board wants to know what alternatives are available.

From: Henry Hecker <phantomhah@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:56 AM
To: Abby Armour
Cc: Jeff Vanevenhoven RBM; Mukwonago Library Trustee2; Diane; Janine Coley; Penny Honetor; Robert Bartelt
Subject: Re: Library Board Discussion on MHMS Request

Thanks, Abby, this helps a lot. First of all, your board has focused on the funding aspect when there are three requests.

1. Funding: you have correctly cited the loan agreement that puts the responsibility of curation and any new furniture costs on the Historical Society. We have requested otherwise for several reasons:

a. As owners do you want to chip in to make the displays and organization as optimal as possible? The first draft of our lease agreement with the Village actually required us to feature the Grutzmacher collection without reference to the other two important NA collections we own and when explaining our view on that, the requirement was dropped. All three collections are great assets to the community and deserve better display, curation, and promotion.

b. Because of the fact we do not own the "G" collection and the library can do what it wants with it by the terms of the will, state statute, and loan terms, our board has been anxious about spending significant money for "furniture" that could not be easily repurposed. We acknowledge that your board has stated numerous times that taking the collection back would not happen without cause, but the specter remains.

So, unless the Library Board is interested in helping us out, and chooses to adhere to the loan agreement we respect that position. We can take this request off the table. Of course, there are other scenarios but Danielle offered the one we both thought best. (More later.)

c. Have you considered the possibility of promoting the Library's financial support of the "G" Collection in your newsletter. Sounds like good PR to me. It might rouse additional community support for donations overall. While the NAGPRA updates are informative, we are unaware of anyone who has come to the museum to see the collection based upon their interest in the NAGPRA process or resources expended.

2. Our request, also per the loan agreement, is for the Library Board to let us to handle the collection to un-stow the items that will be redisplayed. This request seems academic as we have handled the "G" objects for fifty some years, and while Driftless Pathways did most of this "G" work to clear the room, our volunteers followed the same procedure under the auspices of Driftless Pathways to catalog and inventory the much more delicate textiles, wooden, and leather goods of the Schoewe and Kirkby collections. All "G" items are stowed and organized using the Bernstein inventory. The essential difference here is that the Society will now select the items that will be returned for display. Other redundant items (redundant in the sense that Arthur amassed an inventory of axes, drills, etc for his sales inventory) will be in a cabinet. However, for the uber interested visitor or researchers/archeologists, all the extra items will be available in a drawered cabinet so that the entire collection stays intact.

3. What we believe will be of assistance in accomplishing the selection and labeling of items in 2 above,, based upon Danielle and Ernie's guidance, is for you to provide us with Ernie's report.

Here are answers to the other questions your board has posed:

a. Other scenarios: We evaluated other display cases, some of them less costly. Upright glass cases similar to the Colossus Waddell brand cases made by a Chinese firm are an option. However, we dismissed those with concerns about the rated weight bearing of the shelves and other quality concerns. There is the possibility of bringing one of the large store counter cases back as it is of a style that should be compatible with the look and feel we are going to achieve with the other cases we are using in the room. However, bringing back all the cases for the "G" collection is not a consideration for us as it will distract from the goal of better labelling, lighting, and visible presentation of the objects. All of our old cases that we did not choose to retain are currently stored at a DPW building pending disposition. These cases, as

you may know, were obtained from local merchants, jewelers, and maybe a bakery when they either ceased operations or remodeled. These old cases show wear, are poorly lighted and several are not very secure.

b. Staging the work: By necessity, this is exactly what is happening. Our goal is to have a "soft opening" by June with enough of the collections back on display with a representative sample of the new interpretive panels in place to better tell various stories. Panels for William West Kirkby, the three owners of the collections, Mukwonago's Indigenous peoples timeline, and the game of Chunkey are in various stages of graphic design and should be in place by June. Over the next year, we will continue to add inside case furniture and labelling to greatly improve the visibility and the information available to our visitors. As it stands now a portion or all of the non-framed "G" items will still be stowed in bins in a corner of the room simply because the new cases have at least 4 weeks delivery time from order placement and we expected that Danielle and Ernie were going to assist in the "G" collection curation. We have essentially 4-5 volunteers doing all of this work and have been putting in 2-3 full days per week since February. Recall, the floor replacement dictated an acceleration of this project. Driftless Pathways was a great help in Phase 1, but simply could not support the project with the other workload they had in the pipeline.

c. Funding: The Historical Society is funding this project with existing funds, new donations via radio ads, social media and our website, and expect to receive several grants and endowments over the next year. If the Library Board did want to contribute in some fashion it would be in steps based upon our capacity to create the collateral: panels, case furniture such as pedestals, easels, shelving, etc. .

Hopefully, this information will be helpful to your board. Rather than a formal meeting at a table, I suggest we meet at the museum and your board members can see the room first hand to see what we are doing. Please forward any other questions as they come in. Our team will be available several days next week and will respond accordingly to the poll.

Best Regards,
Henry Hecker



Red Brick Museum Project



MUKWONAGO
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Danielle M. Benden

MUKWONAGO
RED BRICK
MUSEUM

JANUARY 11, 2024

Agenda



- Why we're here: asbestos flooring issue at Red Brick Museum
- Part 1: Move out to facilitate floor replacement
 - Who/what/where/when/how much
- Part 2: Options for move back in

Primary Focus

Asbestos Flooring

Village personnel identified asbestos flooring in the Native American Room at the Red Brick Museum. This hazard must be remedied before the museum can re-open in June 2024.



Concerted Effort

Village as owner of building

Mukwonago Historical Society, owner of Schoewe and Kirby collections, caretaker of Grutzmacher

Library as owner of Grutzmacher Collection





Who will manage the move?

**Grutzmacher
Library Owns**

Time Estimate: 5 days to pack and move out

Danielle and Ernie would physically pack and move the collection.

**Schoewe, Kirkby
MHS Owns**

Time Estimate: 3 days to pack and move out

Danielle will provide instruction to a team of 3-5 volunteers and pack alongside them. She will provide oversight for Schoewe and Kirkby pack and move.



How will things be packed?

Grutzmacher Library Owns

In polyethylene plastic bags, then into industrial crates, padded with bubble wrap, packing foam

Crates packed no more than 40 pounds
Use of some banker's boxes for lighter objects

Each crate labeled with contents.
Items checked against inventory.

Schoewe, Kirkby MHS Owns

Textiles wrapped in acid-free tissue, then placed in boxes (with handles and a lid)

Leave room and cushion for fragile items.
Boxes no more than 20 pounds

Each box labeled with contents.
Check against inventory.

Where will everything be stored while the floor is fixed?

All packed crates/boxes can likely remain on premises.



Use to Pack Grutzmacher



Use to Pack Schoewe, Kirkby



When will the move happen? How long will it take?

FEBRUARY 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	SK	5 SK	6	7	8	9 10
11	SK	12 G	13 G	14 G	15 G	16 17
18	G	19	20	21	22	23 24
25	26	27	28	29		

Driftless Pathways is available to pack/move out during the first two full weeks of February.

Flooring Installation will take 2 days. 6-8 weeks lead time.

Abbreviations

SK = Move Schoewe, Kirkby

G= Move Grutzmacher

What are the move out costs? Who will pay?

Village



Has agreed to cover the costs for flooring materials and installation.

Library



Initial estimate to pack and move Grutzmacher
=
\$4,100 to \$7,000

Based on Danielle and Ernie's labor (anywhere from 3-5 days) and \$500-\$1,000 in supplies

MHS



Initial estimate to pack and move MHS
=
\$1,700 to \$2,800

Based on Danielle's labor (2-3 days) and relying on volunteers; \$500-\$1,000 in supplies

What are the move out costs? Who will pay?

Village



Has agreed to cover the costs for flooring materials and installation.

Library



Will the library fund the costs for packing and moving the Grutzmacher Collection out of the space?

MHS



Will the MHS fund the costs for packing and moving the Schoewe and Kirkby Collections out of the space?

Will everything get moved back in after the floor is fixed?

If all parties agree, yes. I recommend moving everything back in.

But I urge you to consider supporting some updates to the exhibits.



What exhibit updates would Driftless Pathways recommend?

Add contextual layers of Interpretation. Narrate stories for your visitor.

Place of the Bear

Archaeologists have developed terms—Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian/Ojibwa and Historic/Euro-American Contact—to describe Indigenous cultural groups and lifeways. Diagnostic artifacts from each cultural tradition have been found around Mukwonago and across Waukesha County.

A cache of 40 leaf-shaped flint blades like these were found one mile north of Mukwonago in 1909.

Mukwonago was covered by glaciers 18,000-20,000 years ago.

The First People arrived here at the end of the Ice Age. Paleoindian groups moved frequently, hunting large mammals ("megafauna") using hand-held spears with distinctive "fluted" chipped-stone points. They used animal bones and hides for clothing and temporary shelters, and collected plants for food and medicinal uses.

A mastodon tooth in the Milwaukee Public Museum was found in Waukesha County.

Explore Mukwonago's Indigenous Past

For millennia, Native Americans have lived on this landscape. Descendant communities like the Potawatomi and Ho-Chunk still reside in Wisconsin. Their stories, traditions, and place names reflect an enduring connection to this land.

By 2,500 years ago, Native people were cultivating local plants, making the first clay-fired pots, and building earthen mounds. People moved seasonally, congregating along waterways in the summer when food resources were abundant. They lived in circular wigwams and built conical mounds.

In 1901, a cluster of 28 conical mounds was recorded along the Fox River near the Mukwonago-Vernon town line. These were destroyed as pioneer settlers plowed their fields.

The bow and arrow is one of the most important Woodland Tradition innovations.

In 1901, a cluster of 28 conical mounds was recorded along the Fox River near the Mukwonago-Vernon town line. These were destroyed as pioneer settlers plowed their fields.

At least 38 effigy mound groups are known for Waukesha County, including a bear and panther mapped in 1901 along the Fox River, a few miles northeast of Mukwonago.

Ho-Chunk "wira" (moons) and seasonal food resources in the Woodland Tradition.

By 1,250 years ago, Late Woodland communities across southern Wisconsin began to sculpt animal-shaped ("effigy") mounds. Besides serving as burial places and territorial markers, effigy mounds were physical manifestations of sky, earth, and lower world clan spirits that reflected beliefs of their Indigenous sculptors.

Mukwonago's Potawatomi Villages

"Potawatomi oral tradition tells of three brothers: Ojibwe, the oldest, was the Faith Keeper; Odawa, the middle brother, handled trade; Bodewadini, the youngest, kept the sacred fires lit. Today, within this "family" of Ne-shna-bek (or Anishinabe)—the ancient confederacy—the Potawatomi still refer to themselves as "Keepers of the Fire."

In the 1700s Prairie Potawatomi moved around the base of Lake Michigan and into southern Wisconsin. Their alliances with European powers shifted between the French, English and Americans during various conflicts.

By the early 1800s, the Prairie Potawatomi controlled southeastern Wisconsin. At least three Potawatomi villages were situated around Mukwonago's lakes. These were mapped by government land surveyors in the 1830s. The Potawatomi villages are circled in yellow on the map above.

13,000 to 10,000 Years Ago

End of the Ice Age
Glaciers Retreating

10,000-2,500 Years Ago

Warmer, Drier Climate
Copper Tools

By 10,000 years ago, the climate warmed, megafauna became extinct, and Native people adapted their technologies and lifeways accordingly. Between 9,000-6,000 years ago prairies expanded eastward and bison moved in.

The invention of the atlatl allowed a hunter to throw a spear much farther, faster, and with more force than possible by hand.

Archaic people gathered plants and hunted deer, elk, and smaller game within familiar territories. They fished Mukwonago's waters and moved across the landscape in a seasonal round. Native people commemorated their ancestors in cemeteries that marked generational homelands.

Native people made basalt and granite axe heads to chop wood for fuel and to make canoes, spear shafts, and other items. The oldest stone axes in Wisconsin were grooved for hafting or securing to a wooden handle. Grooves were packed all the way around or on three of the four sides, depending on the hafting technique.

By 6,000 years ago, people were heating and hammering (annealing) copper into tools and ornaments.

2,500 to 850 Years Ago

Mound Building, First Pottery,
Bow and Arrow Invented

950 to 350 Years Ago

Intensive Corn Farming,
Large Village Sites

Artist rendition of Cahokia

Hoops were used for tending large corn fields.

Chert flint was used for tool heads.

By 950 years ago the Mississippian culture developed at Cahokia near modern St. Louis. This city of at least 30,000 people was home to the first intensive corn farmers in the Midwest. As Cahokia was developing, the site of Aztalan—40 miles southwest of Mukwonago—was home to a local Late Woodland community. By 900 years ago, Cahokians ventured up the Rock and Crawfish Rivers to this remote village. People from two different cultural groups, Mississippian and Woodland, lived together at this heavily fortified town. Around 800 years ago, the city of Cahokia fell into decline, and people also abandoned Aztalan. By that time, effigy mound building had ended everywhere, and people congregated in large farming villages near Lake Koshkonong.

Oneota longhouse

Oneota cooking pot

Ramsey Incised pottery vessel from Aztalan

350 Years Ago to Present Time

Potawatomi Villages in Southeastern Wisconsin, Fur Trade

The Mukwonago Potawatomi villages were home to 300-500 people who lived in wigwams and tended large corn beds. They subsisted on fish, muskrats, wild rice and berries. Indian trails, shown below on the map of southern Waukesha County, connected the Mukwonago Potawatomi villages with others, including Bigfoot's village at Geneva Lake. As part of the fur trade, the Potawatomi exchanged muskrat and raccoon furs and maple sugar for cloth, pins, thumbtacks, glass beads, brass kettles, iron axes, hoes, metal files, and guns and bullets.

The pictorial map above, created by Nancy Oestreich, illustrates Potawatomi Indian legends around Lower Phantom (Howell Lake on the map). Phantom Lake (Potawatomi called it "Wajasha" or muskrat), and Mukwonago Lake.

In 1833, the Potawatomi were coerced into signing treaties and ceding their lands to the U.S. Government. Some Potawatomi families lived in southeastern Wisconsin into the 1860s while others were removed to reservations west of the Mississippi. Today, there are seven federally recognized Potawatomi tribes in the United States including the Forest County Potawatomi of Wisconsin. Despite centuries of oppression, relocation, and assimilation efforts, the Potawatomi remain resilient. Their language and cultural traditions carry on.

Exhibit possibilities continued

Consider adding new exhibit cases, pullout drawers and upright glass displays.

Modify the room layout for better traffic flow. Add directional (track) lighting.



Library and MHMS Questionnaires

Questions for Mukwonago Community Library

Re: Asbestos Floor Replacement

And Possible Grutzmacher Exhibit Updates at the Red Brick Museum

Prepared by Driftless Pathways, LLC January 2024

The Grutzmacher Collection is owned by the Mukwonago Community Library. A portion of the collection is on loan to the Mukwonago Historical Museum Society (MHMS), Inc. displayed in the Red Brick Museum's (RBM) Native American (NA) room. Recently, the Village of Mukwonago—owner of the RBM— determined that the NA room flooring is comprised of asbestos tile, a hazard to human health, and needs to be replaced before the NA room can re-open (scheduled to re-open in June 2024).

1. Does the Mukwonago Community Library support enlisting the professional expertise of Driftless Pathways to oversee the packing and moving of the Grutzmacher collection so the asbestos flooring can be replaced in the NA room at the RBM?

Yes No

Comments:

2. If the answer to question #1 is "Yes," does the Mukwonago Community Library approve of the project timing for the move out of the NA room (first two full weeks of February)?

Yes No

Comments:

3. Will the Mukwonago Community Library fund the Grutzmacher Collection pack and move out of the NA room so that the asbestos flooring can be replaced? Driftless Pathways would pack and move the collection.

Yes No

Comments:

4. Does the Mukwonago Community Library support the concept of updating the Grutzmacher Collection exhibit by adding interpretive signage to narrate stories, and improve the collection's curation, display, and organization?

Yes No

Comments:

Let's Recap



January 2024 Village and MHS select flooring. Village orders flooring.

February 2024 Driftless Pathways packs and moves collections out of Native American Room.

Mar-Apr 2024? New flooring installed.

Rest of Schedule TBD and is dependent on answers to questionnaires.

Please submit your completed questionnaires to Danielle via email no later than 2/1.



Questions?

Contact Danielle at danielle@driftlesspathways.com
or by phone at (608) 284-8907.