

**Museum of Vanning and Hall of Fame, Inc.**  
**Executive Committee Minutes**  
**November 22, 2024**

The Executive Committee of the Museum of Vanning and Hall of Fame, Inc. held a teleconferencing meeting on November 22, 2024. In attendance were Board Members Joe Madonia, President; Bonnie Madonia, Secretary; and Lynn Harmonson, Treasurer; also, Officers of the Corporation Larry Gibson, Financial Coordinator; Susie Martin, Member Coordinator; Bob Bulinda, Senior Advisor; Howard Furtak, Advisor; and Eric Walker, Advisor.

*[This was a combined meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Any motion requiring Board approval was voted on only by Board members.]*

Joe Madonia called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM EST.

Larry made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the meeting held June 18, 2024. Bonnie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Old Business**

- Larry is studying non-profit annual report formats. He wants to keep the report as simple as possible. We have a lot of work to for the report and keeping it simple will help.
  - This report will go a long way toward validating the museum.
  - We need the cost and current value of the fixtures, building, office equipment and supplies for the report as well as an inventory of the merchandise to be sold, not including what is still in storage.
  - Also needed are treasurer reports from 2023 and 2024 along with a list of changes done in 2023 and 2024.
- Joe reported that the bank account now has about two thousand dollars in it.
  - Logo shirts have been ordered as well as Christmas fund raising event shirts.
  - It is looking like we are going to be about three thousand dollars short of budget to pay for the Christmas fund raiser event.
  - The 2024 toy vans are paid for and should be available at the event.
  - We have paid out three to four thousand in new merchandise this year.
  - Susie said the shortage was due to needing new merchandise for the Nat's and to sell everywhere at different at other events. As a result, we will need to pull funds from the endowment fund to cover the working capital needed. We need to be sure the next year's budget includes new merchandise.

- Larry stated that any funds pulled from the endowment fund for working capital should be repaid whenever possible and that we must strive to minimize unbudgeted expenses.
- Joe also informed the committee that Rob (Doc) Maksymchuk and Julie Peterson rented a U-Haul trailer to bring the van rider to the museum. The museum is paying for the rental of the U-Haul trailer. The cost is three hundred dollars.
- Eric announced that he would be going down to the museum for the first part of November. He will not be there for the December event.
- Joe discussed the storage issue. Storage is at a premium at the museum.
  - Joe tried to contact the "tree guy" and discuss the removal of his current shed and planting of the new trees for the museum. The guy was going to do the job unbelievably cheap.
  - It is going to cost four or five thousand dollars to get some sort of building in for storage.
  - Scotty and Amy will not be available this January to do any projects like they have in the past.
  - Joe is clearing the space in the basement for extra room.
  - Joe said the non-vanning VHS tapes from Dale Tess are taking a ton of room that could otherwise be used. We need to get rid of those tapes. There are 1,284 non-van related tapes.
  - We also need to digitize all the VHS tapes from past events. Lynn mentioned that Billo has a machine that does the conversion. There are also apps that do conversions. Most of the tapes are going to be R-rated.
  - Someone asked if we needed a targeted fundraiser for storage. It was noted that we have already begun a raffle to be held at the National. It would be possible to use the proceeds for storage. We are already ahead on the raffle. So far, the cost is six hundred dollars, and we have taken in nine hundred thirty-seven dollars.
  - Howard told us that he is spending more on the rentals than it would cost for three 10 x 12 storage buildings. He is 45 minutes from Eric. Eric could take thirty boxes in his van. He and Tim Ludwig would help to load a semi type truck with everything to transport to Florida from Illinois.
- Joe reported on the palm trees.
- Two trees are gone; five trees were planted. A plaque for Northeastern Van Council is being made. Three trees are still up for sponsorship.
- Larry stated that Don Noone told him that Vantasia is interested in sponsoring a tree but, with three former members dying this year and the cost of the subsequent memorials, it is not possible for this year. Don said hopefully next year.
- Adopt-a-van was brought up for discussion by Susie.

- Susie needs a bio on each of the vans, detailed, clear photos of each van so that she can get a brochure or flyer together for each van.
- Discussion on whether the donations would be general or assigned to each van was started by Larry. Howard said he thought we should offer both.
- Joe discussed lifetime member badges.
  - He had samples of the several types, but they seem to have disappeared.
  - Pricing on the metal 3" x 3 3/4" wide badge, one color is twenty-two dollars plus twenty-five-dollar setup fee.
  - Lynn motioned to have twenty-five badges made and Larry seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Joe informed us that John Burger was donating plates and plastic ware for the Christmas fundraiser. Jeff Paris donated money for meat. We have received or been pledged one hundred thirty-five dollars to-date, The bands will cost one thousand three hundred fifty dollars.

### **New Business**

- Larry stated that our benefactors have donated a substantial sum to the Sprint Car Hall of Fame with the stipulation that, so long as the Museum of Vanning is in existence, one-half of the proceeds from the money, which will be invested, will go to the Museum of Vanning and Hall of Fame non-profit.
  - It is the intention of the benefactors that at least one-half of the proceeds directed to the Museum be used to give Joe Madonia an annual stipend for his activities as curator. Larry stated that we will be getting \$24,474 in May from this arrangement but it may vary a little bit from year to year.
  - Bob said we should give Joe as much of the money as we can.
  - Joe confirmed that recent health issues have resulted in them needing to spend far less time on the road and, thus, earning less money from BJM, so the stipend will be welcome.
  - Eric said Joe could work as a contracted employee of the museum. It would save the museum and Joe taxes and paperwork. Larry is going to follow up on this to confirm what can be done. Lynn confirmed that saving paperwork and taxes was worth the effort.
- Larry has the new payment gateway set up on the website to allow credit cards; and bank vouchers. The gateway is via Nelnet. There will be two options.
  - One option will be for the Nelnet gateway, and the other option will be for PayPal. PayPal and Nelnet cannot be combined using the website provider's current system. Nelnet offers monthly, quarterly, and annual recurring payments.
- Joe reported that the museum building suffered no damages from the two most recent hurricanes. There was some tree damage. There were winds up to 150 miles an hour and torrential rains. There was a wet spot on the floor about six to eight inches wide. Joe put a bucket there and they could hear the plop from

where they were sitting every 20 to 30 minutes. Not much fell into the bucket. Eric said they may have trouble finding the screw that was leaking. Joe said they were having trouble finding people to do work because of all the devastation from the hurricanes all along the west coast of Florida.

- Joe stated that the museum was now officially open again and he is scheduling tours.
- Joe explained that there are so many displaced people from the storms that we may have novel issues this year at the Christmas Fundraiser. He is staying in contact with the hotel to be sure things go as smoothly as possible. Currently, the hotel is filled with displaced people. Some people will be gone in time for rooms to come available, but not all. He has put a blog on Facebook to let vanners that are coming know about alternate hotels in the area.

The next Executive Committee meeting was set for January 23, 2025.

Larry made a motion that the meeting be adjourned; Joe seconded it. Meet adjourned at 5:01 PM EST.