

Humanities Montana
Board Executive Committee Meeting
September 10, 2025

Present: Esther Beth Sullivan (chair), Jeanette Fregulia (vice chair and Grants), Lynda Grande (Finance), Mary Hernandez (Governance), Ray Ekness, Jill Baker (ED)

Meeting Convened at 10:01 am

Beth presented the revised agenda. Jeanette moved to approve the agenda. Lynda seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Director Updates:

- Jill talked about her resignation (effective Nov. 3) and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as HM executive director. She said she would work to ensure a smooth leadership transition.
- Jill identified the strengths of the organization: partnerships, especially with libraries; our program manager; financial stability for the coming year with foundation support.
- HM will receive a \$25K grant from the Federation of State Humanities Council to support humanities programming with the Montana Folklife Area at the Montana Folk Festival (in partnership with MT Arts Council).
- HM will be submitting a grant proposal to the MT 250 Commission, to support a curated speaker program for the 250th anniversary.
- A sample of items on Jill's 'to-do' list before departing:
 - Contract with a bookkeeping service
 - Ensure we are up to date with NEH (eGMS system) and prepared for the NEH 'Activities and Outcomes' report (due January 31)
 - Finalize 990 and other IRS reports
 - Ensure transition of bank accounts, credit cards, etc.

The committee then went into executive session.

Reporting out from executive session: the board chair will seek to identify an interim director as soon as possible (per bylaws); the board chair will reach out to former staff to see if any might consider the position; if there is no interest from prior staff, the position will be posted. The committee recommended delaying a search to permanently fill the position until later in 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59am.