



DATE: August 28, 2023
TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee
FROM: Nan Buckardt
Director of Education

RECOMMENDATION: Approve and Accept New Donations to the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County’s Collections.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Communication, Education, and Outreach

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no financial impact at this time.

BACKGROUND: The Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County (“Dunn Museum”) “collects material culture representing the people, places, and events of Lake County, Illinois” (Collection Policies, Scope of Collections, p. 4). The majority of the Dunn Museum’s historic collection were acquired by the County of Lake from the privately run Lake County Museum of History in 1965 for the purpose of “preserv(ing) and maintain(ing) for future generations the cultural history of Lake County” (Resolution No. 24, dated October 12, 1965). These collections were officially transferred to the Lake County Forest Preserve District in 1989.

The Dunn Museum is frequently offered donations by members of the general public. Each donation is considered against criteria established in the Dunn Museum’s approved Collection Policies. Donations that do not meet these criteria are declined. Since March 2023, the museum has received offers of donations from 17 individuals of which eight offers were declined.

The donations listed on the attached Exhibit A meet the criteria established in the Dunn Museum’s approved Collection Policies and have been reviewed, and are being recommended by, the Museum’s Collections Committee for acceptance into the Dunn Museum’s historic collections. There is adequate space to properly store and care for these items. Under the Collection Policies, the Operations Committee is authorized to accept the donations, because they do not require a purchase of more than \$25,000.00.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Exhibitions and Collections Manager, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Manager of Board Operations and Corporate Counsel

Motion to approve and accept new acquisitions into the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County’s Collections as provided in Exhibit A to staff’s August 28, 2023, memorandum.

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes:____ Nays:____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays:____

New Acquisitions Inventory
August 28, 2023

Photos of the Village of Aptakisic – Eight photos with narrative

Dad's and Mom's Day Program – Dad's and Mom's Day at Lake Forest College, 1934

Historic Building Survey – Completed for structures at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, 1987

Zion related Items – Photographs, pamphlets

Waukegan Speedway Items – Pit pass, photograph and magazine with article about the speedway

Bess Bower Dunn Personal Library Selections – Books from the personal library of Bess Bower Dunn

Saddle – Saddle made by local artisan

Motorcycle Ice Racing Items – photographs, posters, medals, magazines

Ryerson Estate Items – Farwell book and Fire Starter

COVID – 19 Items – Digital items

WWI Mementoes - Items include: gear, dog tags, ribbons and souvenir booklet

Award Ribbons and Bound Newsletters – Lake County Gem and Mineral Society