

Historical Society of Greater Lansing
July 14, 2014, Creyts Building
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Valerie Marvin

Attendance:

Present: Val Marvin, Harry Emmons, Tim Kaltenbach, Bill Castenier, Jesse Lasorda, Zig Olds, Anne Wilson, Roni Sionakides, and Ron Emery

Absent: Joan Bauer and Erik Nelson

Visitors/Guests: Dave Muylle and Jacob McCormack

Introduction of New Board Member: (1)

Valerie introduced Roni Sionakides to the board. Roni was elected to the board at the June annual meeting.

Review and Approve Minutes: (2) *¹

The minutes of the April meeting were read and two spelling errors were corrected: Erik Nelson's first name and Roni Sionakides last name. On motion by Tim, seconded by Harry the minutes were approved as corrected.

The minutes of the June Annual meeting were read and on motion by Tim, seconded by Jesse, were approved.

Building Update (3)

Dave Muylle, co-owner of the Creyts Bldg described his and his partners' commitment to restoring the building, its historical significance, and their interest in furthering the mission of the HSGL. He explained that he and his partner have rented the Creyts Bldg to the HSGL at the very reasonable rate of \$25 per month, However, he further explained that they have recently had to list the building for sale or lease based on economic realities. The sale price is listed at \$349,000. They have no current offers. They would like to have the HSGL continue renting the building even if it were sold or leased but can guarantee neither once HSGL's lease expires in April of 2015. The board expressed it gratitude to Dave for his and his partner's courtesies and support of our efforts.

¹ Numbers next to topic headings correspond to Agenda items.

After a few questions Dave left, and the board discussed the concern of dampness in the basement of the building and deleterious affect moisture will have on our historical items collection. Zig identified a couple of options to address the dampness issue that were then discussed. First is the purchase of a dehumidifier for placement in the basement; or second, purchase and placement of “damp-rid” pails that absorb moisture. Both are available in a Meijers store or similar retailer. At this time Jesse left the meeting to inspect the basement to see if the floor and electrical system would accommodate a dehumidifier. Jesse reported that it was not clear whether or not there was a floor drain and /or an electrical outlet available to connect the unit to. Tim recommended the board authorize Zig to spend up to \$200 for the purchase of either a dehumidifier or the damp-rid pails. Tim moved, Ron seconded and the board voted unanimously to do so.

Treasurer’s Report (4)

Tim reported that the General Fund balance fell from \$4,724 at the last report to a current balance of \$3,546. The Museum Fund rose from \$39,750 to \$41,668. Ron moved to accept and file Tim’s written report, Harry seconded the motion and the board unanimously voted to do. The printed summaries of each fund are attached to these minutes.

Tim then presented a multiple pages that include a financial summary for both the General fund, and the Museum fund for July 1, 2013 through June 30th, 2014, a summary of the Herrmann House fundraiser, and a proposed budget for both funds for 2014-2015. Tim presented these to give board members a chance to review but not take action on them yet.

Tim noted that some expenses in the proposed budget actually relate to the museum and he would recommend they be shifted to the museum fund rather than the general fund. These expenses include expenses related to collections and other operational type expenses related to fundraising, such as guest speakers and their travel. Tim also thinks we should consider including approximately \$750 expense for accounting services as often non-profits are required to have their records audited. As proposed, regardless of the shifting of expenses, the general fund will be balanced out each year. This led the discussion to consider what should be considered appropriate expenses for the museum vs. the general fund. The consensus seemed to be that “operational” expenses should be considered general fund while “capital” type expenses should be restricted to the museum fund. The

ultimate question was whether exhibit expenses (i.e., for purchase of exhibits) should be considered general expenses or museum fund expenses. The concern is that we don't misrepresent the purpose of the funds to our potential donors and that the money received is properly assigned to the purpose which coincides with the donors' intent. The question was tabled until the next meeting.

Auction Update (5)

Valerie confirmed that the auction will be held at the newly refurbished Knapp's building. The Eyde's have agreed on condition that the auction be held in November. The auction will include a tour of the building. The tentative date is November 15th. We concluded that because of our target audience, it is unlikely that the start of hunting season will impact our function. The theme will be an "Old Fashioned Christmas". We also discussed the possibility of a "garage sale" or rummage sale type of event and whether it should be part of or separate from the November 15th silent auction. Bruce Capitek, whose has researched the history of the Knapp's building will make a presentation at the auction?

Summer/Fall Programming (6)

Valerie briefly outlined the series of programs to be presented the rest of this summer and into the fall. She particularly mentioned Tom Lynch, an undertaker, who on Thursday, September 18th, will address the topic "A Good Death" in which he will discuss death and burial traditions from the last hundred years. The other programs numbering ten in all are listed on the agenda.

Baker Event (7)

Valerie has been in touch with Kay Gage, a relative of Luther Baker who has agreed to bring a good supply of Luther Baker artifacts and memorabilia to the presentation next April. Jesse will prepare a list of prospective Civil War experts who could make presentations at the event also. One of these will likely be Dave Smith, a Charlotte, Michigan attorney. Bill reported that James Swanson, the Luther Baker expert, has not signed a contract to appear yet, but has verbally agreed to come and participate.

Collections Report (8)

The Collections committee has been working at setting up a staging area in the basement of the Creyts building in which to process (i.e., classify and categorize) historical artifacts that come into the HSGL's possession. Only

one quarter of HSGL's collection has yet been processed. Volunteers for this are needed at the Creyts building most of which is done at night.

Adjournment:

On Jesse's motion, seconded by Bill, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9th, at 7 PM.