

Historical Society of Greater Lansing  
September 9, 2014, Creyts Building  
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President Valerie Marvin

**Attendance:**

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

Absent: Joan Bauer and Harry Emmons

**Review and Approve Minutes: (1) \*<sup>1</sup>**

The minutes of the July meeting were read and on motion by Anne, seconded by Bill, were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report (2)**

Tim reported that the General Fund balance as of August 31<sup>st</sup> was \$4,640.99. The Museum Fund rose to \$42,380.92. Tim reported that donations over the summer increased by around \$1,000. Val suggested that some of this may be due to the increased number of programs over the summer (9 rather than 5 versus last summer) which drew around 600 people for the summer. Ron moved to accept and file Tim's written report, Jesse seconded the motion and the board unanimously agreed. The printed summaries of each fund is attached to these minutes. (see pages 2 and 3)

Tim then presented a single page proposed budget for both the General and for the Museum funds. (see page 1 attached) Tim noted that he added \$1,000 for professional expense to the General Fund budget to allow for a CPA review. He took the 2014 silent auction expense and the acid free box expenses from the General Fund and placed it in the Museum Fund under the "collections" line item as that is more consistent with a capital expense item (i.e., expense aimed at preserving capital assets). These changes were in response to discussions that were had at the July meeting concerning the same.

Jesse asked if the HSGL invests any of its money in any investment grade assets. Valerie responded that Mike at the bank told her that the current

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers next to topic headings correspond to Agenda items.

yield on bank deposits is only around 1%. However, even at this low rate this will preserve the funds and possibly even grow. Val suggested that Tim contact Sue Babcock to discuss further. Tim also increased the amount of donations he included in revenues for the 2014-2015 budget. Ron moved seconded by Erik to adopt Tim's budget for the current fiscal year 2014-2015. Agreed unanimously.

### **Collections Update: (3)**

Anne reported that the collections committee needs to continue classification and processing of new acquisitions to our collections. She also recommended that we purchase 6 boxes at \$10.55 each and 10 large boxes at \$12 each with file folders to store the collections in. Val noted that before she left the organization, Adina offered her services at \$40/hr to set up a searchable exhibit/artifact inventory list so it could be placed on-line. Adina estimated this would take about ten hours. Both Val and other board members were cool to this possible expenditure. Ron moved and seconded by Bill to authorize up to \$250 to purchase the materials that Anne recommended. The board approved this authorization unanimously.

Val explained the collection process as one where the committee members meet, review the items against existing criteria and decide whether to keep the articles. One main factor in the criteria is one of whether we have enough space to properly house the objects. The current collections committee consists of Val, Bill, Jesse, Roni, and Anne. An also reported that the committee would meet again on Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ron also reported that he had picked up some old lights donated by the United Methodist Church in East Lansing. These were taken to the storage area in the Creyts building.

### **Luther Baker Event & Exhibit (4)**

Bill reported that James Swanson, who was initially engaged to be the keynote speaker at the event, has since backed out. In his place Bill has engaged Steve Miller from Lake Villa, Illinois. Miller appears to have an outstanding resume and has made presentations on Baker and the Lincoln assassination many times. Bill provided a copy of Miller's resume which confirms his suitability for the program. (See page 6 attached to these minutes) Bill also provided a proposed list of ideas and events for the Luther Baker event for next April. (See pages 4-5 attached). The program could include re-enactors, a Grand Army of the Republic presentation, and a

walking tour of the Capital lawn filled with Civil War memorabilia. He will also contact the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Sunfield to solicit their participation. Bill believes we need to research potential meeting places for the presentations and demonstration.

**Silent Auction:**

Val reported that we need more sponsorships. Val has letters to use to solicit items for the auction. She also wanted new ideas for items, gift certificates, etc for the auction. The silent auction will feature items up to \$200 in value. The Live auction will feature items from \$200-\$500.

**Adjournment:**

On motion by Anne, seconded by Ron the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 21st. at 7 PM.

Ron Emery  
Secretary  
October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014