

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, November 17, 2015  
Creys Building

President Valerie Marvin called the meeting to order at 7:07 with a quorum present.

**Present:** Valerie Marvin, Bill Castanier, Joan Bauer, Jesse Lasorda, Anne Wilson, Tim Kaltenbach, Roni Sionakides, and Ron Emery.

**Absent:** Harry Emmons, Zig Olds, Bob Rose, and Erick Nelson

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting of September 22<sup>nd</sup> were reviewed. On Anne's motion seconded by Jesse, they were unanimously approved.

**2. Treasurer's Report:**

Tim presented a two page written summary of the General and Museum Fund balances as of November 17<sup>th</sup>. (A copy of both is attached) The General Fund (GF) balance is \$3,198.59. The Museum Fund (MF) balance is \$75,365.34. Tim noted the transfer of \$1820 from the GF to the MF since this money should have been deposited to the MF in the first place. He advised that if there was ambiguity over which fund they should go into, he routinely assigns them to the GF.

Val also presented Tim with a check to Tim for deposit to the GF that represent a donation from Koschek's.

Tim also noted that the \$1857.30 expenditure for the exhibit exceeded the \$1000 amount budgeted for that item originally. On motion by Joan, seconded by Anne, the board unanimously approved increasing that budget item to match that expenditure.

Val reported that the GF was charged \$330 for the set-up of the newsletter for the last two publications by Insty-gram. This procedure she had done herself before. She questioned whether the board needed to specifically approve these expenditures. The board consensus was that they didn't need to be specifically approved, as these were simply administrative type expenses within her authority to authorize and pay.

Bill moved, seconded by Joan to authorize the purchase of a \$50 gift card to give to Val's parents for their work on the recent silent auction. Joan would write a thank you note to them. Unanimously approved.

Val queried that status of the internal "audit" of our finances that had been discussed in June annual meeting. Both Bill and Ron agreed to perform the informal audit. Because Tim is Treasurer, he will not participate but would be ready to answer any questions concerning the same.

On motion by Joan, seconded by Bill, the board voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report and place on file.

**3. Silent Auction Wrap-up:**

Val reported that although attendance did not meet the level of 2014's auction at Knapp's, she felt the turnout was good. Revenues for this year's auction totaled \$8300, with a bottom-line deposit of \$1820 into the MF. She compared this year's revenues to past year venues; i.e. \$23,000 for Knapp's (2014), \$15,000 for the BWL (2013), and \$6700 for Comerica (2012).

We then discussed potential alternative s to a silent auction for next year. Joan suggested a "home tour" of the Moore's River Drive neighborhood with a brunch at the Lansing Country Club. This could be held in conjunction of the neighborhood's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Joan will do an informal census of potential homeowners that would be amenable to open their homes to such an event.

**4. Committee Reports:**

a. Collections-

Val reviewed our current protocol for storing different types of items received. The space at Creys is running out and there are environmental concerns. She reminded that the CADL does not

accept anything for storing unless it is given title to the item or object. The CADL will accept documents and paper items, but the HSGL loses access to these items once they are turned over to the CADL. And the latter won't lend these items out absent them being insured. Accordingly, we have been keeping and storing three-dimensional items at Creyts. But Val noted that Jim McLain and Heidi Butler heretofore have been good about giving us copies of documents, etc. We then discussed potential future relationship with the CASL especially Heidi Butler given her relationship with Zig Olds. We expect this to continue to be a friendly one.

b. Social Media-

Val reports that there is good activity on the HSGL website, twitter account and facebook page. A lot of recent entries mentioned the Eastern silent auction positively.

c. Memberships-

Ron reported that he had been regularly sending out dues notices to members whose memberships have recently expired. These have been mailed and e-mailed. He reported that our current membership level is around 350 including life members.

d. Exhibits-

Val suggested a potential future program in the nature of a "History Hop" or "confab." In it we would invite various organizations to contribute to the program. We would charge a fee for their participation. Bill circulated a list of organizations that currently maintain a historical collection relevant to their subject matter. He also passed out a three-page list of potential exhibits from these 56 organizations that might be interested in a participating. (See attached 3 page list)

e. Programs-

Bill reported that there are programs already scheduled for the New Year, including one sponsored by the CADL on the Underground Railroad. He suggested that we might want to do one on this topic on our own. We have rescheduled the Holling C. Holling program from this past summer to January of 2016. Bill suggested another program concerning the School for the Blind, and Joan suggested one on the house owned by Jim Herbert.

**5. Schedule of Meetings for 2016:**

Val suggested that we should establish ahead of time a schedule of meetings for the coming year to encourage board member attendance. In line with that the following meeting dates were agree on: January 7<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup>, and November 7<sup>th</sup>. Val asked that I send out an e-mail of these dates to all current board members.

Joan reported that Dr. Knight, the president of LCC has offered to allow us to meet at the Arts & Sciences building for our January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. On display will be some murals on the topic "Ambient Learning". We will invite Heidi Butler and Jo Trumble to this meeting.

**Adjournment.** At 8:59 on motion by Tim seconded by Bill the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted

Ron Emery  
Secretary  
December 9, 2015