

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, January 23, 2019
1922 Moores River Drive, Lansing, MI 48910

President Bill Castanier called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Present: Valerie Marvin, Bill Castanier, Bob Rose, Mary Kwas, Zig Olds, Tim Kaltenbach, Cathy Babcock, Jacob McCormick, Joan Bauer and Ron Emery.

Absent: Anne Wilson and Helen Mickens

Guest: Bob Mainfort

Minutes:

The minutes of the previous board meeting (October 30) had been e-mailed to all for review in advance of the meeting. On motion by Tim, seconded by Mary the minutes were unanimously approved with one correction tendered by Ron.

Treasurer's Report:

Tim passed out a two-page Treasurers report that showed the fund balances as of this date as follows: General Fund \$19,236.28; Museum Fund \$100,920.29 with \$50,000 of that in a CD at Huntington Bank. The General Fund revenues were \$975 with expenses of \$1,388.55 over the period; the Museum Fund earned \$828 on the CD. On motion by Ron, seconded by Joan the treasurers' report was unanimously accepted and placed on file.

Audit Report:

Ron reported that he had delivered to Layton & Richardson the requested HSGl records electronically. Tim had hand delivered hard copies of the bank statements himself to the CPA firm. Because tax season has started and will last for several months, we don't expect to hear anything from the CPA until after April.

I-496 Grant Update:

Bill reported that the City as the pass through of grant money will reimburse the HSGl for all expenses related to the project, the website, and staffing for the same. Bill explained that initially it appeared that we would pay unreimbursed expenses of about \$17,000. Now it appears likely that a more accurate estimate would be \$5000 for unreimbursed expenses.

Next Bill reported that the project anticipates establishment of an online scrapbook or "lost archive" that will be maintained by the Library of Michigan in its "portal." 97% of the materials for the scrapbook have already been delivered to the Library. The project will also include a digital map that will list and locate all addresses affected by I-496 and include historical information on the relocation of the affected

residents, include oral histories and videos. The Library of Michigan has begun to assemble the ephemera, photos, etc for the project.

Ideas for a traveling exhibit constructed by Jeff Wilson of LCC's theatre department will include replicas of a church, a barbershop, jazz club, and a record store.

An executive director for the project should be hired by February 1.

Bill also reported that WKAR would likely undertake the production of the video documentary that will include both oral and video interviews. Bill will also be interviewed on the WUOM radio program "States Side" discussing the I-496 project.

WWW:

Bill reported that the new website is not up and running yet. It should be by Friday of this week. One of the issues was what to include in the website. Mail Chimp, a data base program will likely be used, as it is searchable. Since Cathy and Jacob have familiarity with it, they may be available to update the site. The site will not replace the newsletter because portions of our members are not computer equipped for that.

Home Tour:

Joan reported that she had discussions about Glencairn neighborhood in East Lansing as a possible site for this year's tour. Joan and Cathy will begin making contacts with the homeowners of potential tout homes.

Summer Walking Tours:

Bill reported that we will likely partner with the City to set up some walking tours in the following areas: south of the Capitol; East Lansing MSU fraternities and sororities; downtown churches; the Mar-Moor Neighborhood; I-496 African American neighborhoods in conjunction with a bus tour; and the newly installed Way-Finder kiosks downtown.

Programming:

The events for the year are not yet finalized, but the following are likely:
January 24 and February 20, I-496 Paving the Way;
March 24, Faygo;
April, Jessica Tutter, African American genealogy;
May, Green book locations in the Lansing area;
September, Women of Motown;
October, author Jim Harrison;
November, Ray Stannard Baker (with Bill presenting)
and/or Grand Ledge chairs (built in Grand ledge) presented by Jacob.

Video Training:

Bob and Ron expressed interest in taking the video training available through the City using its equipment. The cost is \$50 each to be paid by the HSGL.

Museum Choices:

Bill then raised the issue of what our goal should be relative to a local museum. He suggested that there were three options and offered the following regarding each:

Lieberman's Building:

A potential buyer had offered to let us have the basement but we would be required to provide the staffing. There would be no guaranteed parking either. These two drawbacks made this a disfavored option. As it turns out the potential buyer has reconsidered.

Forbes Substation of the BWL:

The BWL would like HSGL to take over the building. This would require substantial renovation money and maintenance expense.

Lansing Performing Arts Center:

This building will be built downtown at a location kept secret so far. The HSGL would share the building with the Lansing Symphony and the Boarshead Theatre group. The HSGL would have no maintenance or staffing expense since there would already be an established and permanent clientele in the building. The set up would also allow for changeable exhibits on site.

The third option at this point appears to be the preferred as it would allow us to continue raising our visibility with our programs, thus accomplishing our goal at a less expensive price. Because our programs have raised the visibility of the HSGL, Bill as our representative gets invited to organizations like the Magna Arts & Culture committee meetings where these types of opportunities can be found.

Committee Structure:

Val circulated a proposed list of committees and asked for board members to volunteer to work on these to help take the burden off Bill and all future presidents. Proposed Committees and those volunteering on the committees include the following:

- Audit – Ron
- Collections – Zig
- Fundraising- Joan
- Grants – Cathy
- Newsletter & Membership- Valerie and Mary
- Walking Tours – Valerie
- Exhibits
- Website and social Media
- Video

Events (Speakers)

Each committee would be chaired by a Board member and would need at least three other members. At least two should be at-large i.e. non-board members.

Collections:

Zig reported progress in organizing and categorizing collections at the R E Olds Museum storage area. More work needs to be done and this involves going through bins, identifying them and sorting them out. Bill also noted that we have received a collection of old "heavy metal" genre record albums that need to be sorted and categorized.

Adjournment:

On motion by Jacob, seconded by Mary, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. Bill will schedule the next meeting after notice.

Ron Emery

/S/

Secretary

February 18, 2019