

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, July 12th, 2016

Crechts Building

President Bill Castanier called the meeting to order at 7:08PM.

Present: Valerie Marvin, Zig Olds, Joan Bauer, Jesse Lasorda, Anne Wilson (through Skype), Mary Kwas, Tim Kaltenbach and Ron Emery.

Absent: Bob Rose Harry Emmons,

Visitors: Mayor Virg Bernero and Brett Kaschinske, Director of Lansing Parks and Recreation.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Review and consideration of the minutes of the previous 2 meeting (May and annual meeting in June) was tabled because of lack of copies of the minutes. Ron advised that he would send these out by e-mail along with the July minutes for review at the next meeting.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Tim reported that our finances were right about where they would be at this time of year without a spring fundraiser. As of July 11th, the general fund balance was \$1,83.90 and the museum fund balance was \$75,515.74. On Jesse's motion seconded by Joan, the report was accepted and placed on file. 8 yeas, 0 nays. The new dues structure has not been implemented yet. This should raise revenues.

3. Selection of Jacob McCormick as Executive Board Member

Because one candidate for the board withdrew just before the June annual meeting, a board vacancy exists. Jesse nominated and Joan seconded the selection of Jacob McCormick to fill that vacancy. 8 yeas, 0 nays.

4. City of Lansing Women's Hall of Fame proposal

Bill introduced Mayor Bernero and Brett Kaschinske and board members introduced themselves to Virg and to Brett. They were here to offer to the HSGL the opportunity to take over the building that currently houses the Women's Hall of Fame in the Cooley Gardens. Bill and Val received a letter from the city making this offer. They will forward a copy of the letter and info to board members by e-mail. The Hall is moving and the building will be vacant beginning April of 2017. The building has been rented to the Women's Historical Center for \$1 per year, with the Women's Center paying 70% of capital upkeep and the City to pay the balance (if it agreed to the repairs). Bernero noted that the house has fallen into some disrepair (rotting wood and other issues) and this would require some financial investment to get the building back into good shape.

Included in the information received was an architectural report with a description of the current condition of the house. Most discussion then revolved around how much the estimates were to repair the house and whether the house would suit our needs as a museum. Val and Bill will meet with Emily LNU of the Women's Historical Center to discuss the costs of upkeep. Brett advised that the city maintains the gardens with volunteers and would continue to do so. It would also maintain the parking lot. Virg noted that the city owns the property as a result of a bequest to the city although it would revert back to the family if the parcel ceased being used for a public park. Having HSGL take over the house would preserve another historic home. The city would like HSGL to come up with a proposal that would demonstrate that HSGL would be able to maintain the building once renovated. Brett also offered to provide information on the costs of maintaining the Turner/Dodge House as a possible gauge on the costs expected here. Brett also noted that often the Cooley Gardens is used for a wedding and that HSGL would be able to rent out the renovated house for weddings etc. although city ordinance prohibits alcohol on the site. This would require an ordinance change to allow alcohol on the premises.

Joan as a member of many charitable boards observed, it is tough to raise money every year for maintenance purposes. Need to have a dedicated funding source. Virg spoke of the need to have development campaign which will have 33% - 50% of the goal already in hand when the drive begins.

At the end of the meeting several members spoke on this issue and these points were made. This is the second offer the city has made to HSGL, the first was to offer the Turner/Dodge mansion as a possible location. To turn this down may jeopardize further cooperation with the city that we have received such as use of the City hall, etc.

The big concern is whether HSGL is able to afford the project. Several said that we need to give it a try; that we need to show membership and others that we are spending the money that we have collected while selling the idea of a local museum. On the other hand, will this require at least one full time or several part time employees, and can we afford them.

Zig will circulate an e-mail stating his vision of what we need and what we want and encourages us all to respond.

5. Collections

Zig reported that he and other members of the collections committee organized and processed the items in the main office space and has been compiling a master spreadsheet of holdings. Zig still needs 4 volunteers to help continue this process, preferable on a Saturday and/or a Sunday. He will send out an e-mail of possible dates for continuing work on this project.

Zig will be relocating to Lansing soon and will have more time to contribute to committee activities.

6. Report of Events

a. Walking Tours: Bill reported that the June 18 walking tour was attended by 40 people and produced \$100 in donations that day. The balance of the tour schedule is as follows:

North Washington Avenue July 14th

Oak Park July 23rd

MSU Sports August 20th

b. September 8th Scrabble with Peter Morris

c. September 18th Riverside Cemetery

d. September 29th fifty years of Journalism and the Lansing City Pulse

e. Planes. Trains and Automobiles

October 8th Engine 1225 at MSU

October 15th Tucker Auto with Steve Lehto

October 22nd Babe Ruth with Craig Whitford

October 29th Civil War archives at CDL

f. Christmas Toys November 1st,

We will be seeking members and others to supply special toys they received for Christmas in the past.

7. Fundraiser August 24th

Bill reported that HSGL and the Wonder Women Estate Sales will present a "Watcha got" antique fundraiser on August 25th in Old Town at the old Freddie's Doughnuts location in Old Town. Nationally recognized antiques expert Harry Riinker will be present to talk on antiques and he and a panel of experts will evaluate hand-held antiques for donors who contribute to the fundraiser. It will approximate "Antiques Road show's format. Tickets will be \$20 each.

Other fundraising ideas were also discussed. Joan was willing to organize a Moore's River Park home tour.

Val mentioned that some members had expressed interest in a program that would include a tour of the Rumsey Jerome home at Marshall and Jerome.

Bill and Val also advised that they had discussed the possibility of a religion and faith in the Greater Lansing Area. They would anticipate inclusion of Black, Hispanic, Muslim, and other faith worship sites and rituals.

8. Miscellaneous

Ron turned over to Valerie the bank account deposit stamps, PO box key, and the undeposited checks taken from the PO box today. She will once again maintain the membership lists. And make deposits.

Adjournment. At 9:05PM on motion by Joan seconded by Tim the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for August 18th.

Respectfully Submitted

Ron Emery
Secretary
March 23, 2016