

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 18, 2018

4232 Shady Hill Lane, Lansing, Mi

President Bill Castanier<sup>a</sup> called the meeting to order at 6:34PM.

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

**Absent:** Anne Wilson, and Tim Kaltenbach

**Guest:** Bob Mainfort (in his own house)

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been e-mailed to all for review in advance of the meeting. With the addition of one sentence in the first paragraph of the Treasurer's report section which read "Further, \$400 was given to the homeowners who displayed their homes, and \$350 was spent on signs", on motion by Mary, seconded by Zig, the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

**Treasurer's Report:**

In Tim's absence, Bill passed out a one page Treasurers report that showed the fund balances as follows as of this date: General Fund \$17,688.39; Museum Fund \$101,010.64. **This followed a transfer of \$25,000 from the general fund to the Museum fund pending Bill and Tim's decision to start placing museum funds into "laddering purchases" on line.**

On motion by Joan, seconded by Mary the treasurers' report was accepted and placed on file.

The board also discussed the possibility of closing the Comerica bank accounts and depositing it into a credit union or other financial institution that may not charge us for certain transactions. One suggested was MSU FCU. One factor to consider however is what affect this would have on Valerie's access to the financial institution given Comerica's closeness to the post office and Valerie's work site as she makes the deposits.

Ron reported that he had contacted 2 CPA firms seeking a quote for a financial review of the HSGL's records. The two were between \$2500 and \$4500. Ron will contact Layton & Richardson who had done a review for NWI for \$2500. Ron will coordinate this with Bill and Tim.

**Old Business:**

**Web Development:**

Bill reported that Sam Rose has volunteered to develop a HSGL web site in the form of a "virtual museum." Rose will ask this board to write introductions, and

background material for the project. The set up is expected to take from 3-6 months and will use some content already on the HSGL Facebook page.

#### **I-496 Federal Grant:**

Bill reported that we will not likely get the federal grant, but that this project would be worthwhile without it. The project will outline the impact on Lansing's African-American neighborhoods of the I-496 project. Bill will e-mail to all board members an e-mail copy of our grant proposal that describes the project.

#### **Archives:**

Bill and Zig report progress in moving our collections from Creyts to the REO site. Bill will seek volunteers to help with this process. Once all items are removed from Creyts, we will ask Dave Mulye to donate some of the historical items he has on site there rather than let them go with the sale of the property.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Search for exhibit space:**

The Library of Michigan (LOM) is interested in us using some of their exhibit space. This will be pursued.

##### **Turner-Dodge Concerns**

Mary reported that she had talked to the supervisor of the Turner Dodge Mansion about use of the building for public events. The supervisor said that they are using the mansion as an event venue, even while leaving valuable family artifacts out exposed to the public, as well as original photographs that may suffer from light exposure. There also was a concern with them accepting donations of antiques to sell. Mary and others were concerned about this and suggested that we talk to management about this, or have someone from HAGL serve on the Turner-Dodge Board or as a custodial consultant.

##### **City Record Retention:**

Bill reported that he received some records from the city parks and recreation department which raises the question about what do we do with them. Bill will discuss possible options with Heidi from the Local section of CADL. Bob suggested that contact the city clerk and partner with him on obtaining and maintaining these records. Bob cautioned, "Shyness does not work in this business."

##### **Eaton County Cemetery**

Valerie reported that in the 1970's, the HSGL financed and had erected a cemetery marker dedicated to the only Revolutionary War veteran known to be buried in Michigan. Geneva Wiskemann led the project for HSGL at the time. She now wants us to finance refurbishment of the marker. Bill suggested we contribute to it but not undertake that alone as the cost would be about \$2,200. Bill suggested

we contribute \$250-300. On motion by Valerie, seconded by Mary, we voted unanimously to contribute up to \$250 for this project.

**Programs for 2018:**

Bill distributed a calendar of prospective programs for the coming year. This includes 12 programs, 8 walking tours, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LPD, and several MSU related programs, photo exhibits and two fundraisers. (Another Moores River tour and a tour of historical buildings that have been renovated and reused)

**Miscellaneous**

Bob and Joan reported that they represented other organizations on the "Place-making" seminar organized by the Greater Lansing Arts Council. Bill suggested that he talk to Deb Mikula about including HSGL in that organization. Bob and Joan were in favor of so doing.

**Adjournment:**

On motion by Joan seconded by Valerie the meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM. The next meeting will be scheduled for March.

Ron Emery  
Secretary  
January 31, 2018