

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
Monday, April 1, 2019  
403 North Sycamore, Lansing, MI 48933

President Bill Castanier called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

**Present:** Valerie Marvin, Bill Castanier, Anne Wilson, Mary Kwas, Zig Olds, Tim Kaltenbach, Cathy Babcock, Jacob McCormick, Joan Bauer, Helen Mickens and Ron Emery.

**Absent:** Bob Rose

**Guest:** none

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the previous board meeting (January 23) 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 as written.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Tim passed out a one-page Treasurers report that showed the fund balances as of this date as follows: General Fund \$17,104.21; Museum Fund \$100,906.39 with \$50,000 of that in a CD at Huntington Bank. (See attached) The General Fund revenues were \$545 with expenses of \$2,677.07 over the period; the Museum Fund was charged \$13.90 for bank fees. On motion by Mary, seconded by Helen, the treasurers' report was unanimously accepted and placed on file.

**Audit Report:**

Tim reported that he has had continuing contact with Cari Brevard of Layton & Richardson and has provided her with hardcopies of the requested HSGL records to the CPA firm.

**I-496 Grant Update:**

Bill reported that the Mayor has appointed Greta McKinney Trice as the Executive Director of the I-496 project.

Bill reported that MDOT has provided copies of the condemnation files from the old Highway Department from the I-496 Project. These will be used to locate each of the homes and businesses obtained for that project on the digital map. The project will include a digital map that will list and locate all addresses affected by the I-496 Project.

The Library of Michigan has begun to assemble the ephemera, photos, etc., for the project on the second floor of the Library of Michigan. The HSGL will be expected to purchase exhibit display equipment for this purpose.

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

Bill also reported that WKAR is still interested in a production of the video documentary that will include both oral and video interviews. Thirty oral histories have been completed at this point. Editing of them has started.

Four interns from MSU will be working on the project, including the editing and review of the condemnation files.

### **Home Tour:**

Joan reported that we would not have enough time to plan an East Lansing house tour this year. Instead, we should consider delaying it for a year. We then discussed several alternatives for a fundraiser such as a tour of (1) the Potter House owned by Jim McClurkin; (2) the Jackson National Life Building; (3) or the Accident Fund. Bill encouraged members to identify more options to reconsider at the next meeting.

### **Programming: Summer Walking Tours:**

Bill distributed the current schedule of walking tours. (See attached)

Bill reported that about 110 showed up for the March 23 Redlining and I-496 presentation. Because of its popularity we will arrange to present it again.

Bill reminded that April 13 would be a National Day of service at the Union Missionary Baptist Church. Residents affected by the I-496 project will be invited to provide oral histories of those days. The focus will be on stores and neighborhoods.

Juneteenth Celebration will be held on the weekend of June 13-15, and HSGL volunteers will be needed starting around 11 AM. Helen noted that the African American Genealogical Society will have a booth at this event and suggested that we coordinate with that organization.

Bill wants to use this event as a vehicle for presenting the annual award from the HSGL. Bill suggested that the award be given to Ken Turner and Adolph Burton who are leading the oral histories of the I-496 project. Anne moved that recognition, Joan seconded, and that suggestion was unanimously approved. The presentations would be made on June 13 at a 5:30 reception at City Hall.

We then discussed possible other tour subjects such as church architectural tours and other cemetery tours. Ron will contact Sally Campbell at the First Presbyterian Church about that building as a possible subject.

### **Video Training:**

Bill reported that he and several others attended the training offered by the City of Lansing. Ron and several others will attend the same training in April. The cost is \$50 each to be paid by the HSGL.

### **Committee Structure:**

Mary and Val voiced concern about whether we are involved in too many projects at the same time. This concern manifests itself in too much to do by the same few people. One concern was with the amount of work involved in preparing

and publishing the monthly Newsletter, including finding enough people willing to submit articles. We then discussed whether a monthly newsletter was too much. An alternative would be to publish the newsletter bi-monthly and have postcards with event notices and dates sent out monthly. Val reported that we currently have about 230 members. 130 receive the Newsletter by e-mail, leaving 90-100 to receive by regular mail. The use of postcard notices would be cheaper. The consensus was that this would be a good time to try bi-monthly newsletters.

Mary also suggested that we consider hiring a part-time manager for the organization to work 4-5 or up to 20 hours a week to handle membership, e-mails, newsletters, writing grants, scheduling speakers and events, etc. A suggestion was made to consider obtaining a VISTA worker or offering this job to an MSU or other student as a work/study experience. Valerie was going to contact Eaton County Historical Society (?) to see how they have managed a similar situation.

**Annual Meeting:**

Bill wants to hold the annual meeting in May rather than June this year. The date chosen was Wednesday, May 22. Val will review the Newsletters to determine which trustees' terms are up this year and then establish a slate of candidates for officers and trustees in advance of that event. All current officers indicated that they were interested in continuing in their current capacities. Trustees also agreed to return.

**Adjournment:**

On motion by Jacob, seconded by Zig, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. Bill will schedule the next meeting after notice.

Ron Emery  
Secretary  
April 19, 2019