

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Monday, January 20, 2020
7401 Ravenna Trail
Lansing, MI 48933

President Bill Castanier called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

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

Absent: Cathy Babcock and Helen Mickens

Guests: none

Minutes:

The minutes of the previous board meeting (September 17, 2019) were distributed for review. On motion by Bob Rose, seconded by Mary Kwas, the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Ron Emery requested a copy of the vote results from the May Annual meeting. Mary Kwas volunteered that she had kept track of that information and would provide it for the official record for the HSGL.

Treasurer's Report:

Tim Kaltenbach passed out a one-page Treasurers report that showed the fund balances as of December 31, 2019 as follows: General Fund \$10,413.98; Museum Fund \$100,843.84. Tim reported that since April of 2019 the General Fund had revenues of \$5,968.42, with expenses of \$12,658.65. Bill noted that a good portion of this expense was for Pave the Way expenditures, some of which will be reimbursed through the Federal Grant for that project.

Tim explained that the CPA required our books and records to record supply expenditures in a single category, regardless whether they are to be reimbursed through the federal grant. Tim will separately segregate Pave the Way expenditures from others so as to more easily identify reimbursable items.

Bill reported that we have ordered 3 new display cases from Gaylord Company at a total cost of \$16,650 that will initially be used for the Pave the Way exhibit.

On motion by Ron Emery, seconded by Joan Bauer, the treasurer's report was unanimously accepted and placed on file.

Programming:

Church Tour:

Valerie Marvin reported this tour would be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 8 at the Emanuel Lutheran Church at 1001 N. Capitol Avenue.

Suffrage Celebration:

This will be held on Thursday, March 19, at 7:30pm, at the Library of Michigan. A panel of three professional historians will discuss the suffrage movement and its impact in the Midwest.

MSHAA Basketball Championships:

As an offshoot of the Pave the Way research, this program will honor the winners of the high school championships starting in the 1940's. The program will especially focus on the 1959 Sexton championship team and will include video of the games. The date will be determined.

Green Book:

Two western Michigan travel writers will discuss Green Book sites in Michigan cities.

Pave the Way:

This program will take place at 5:30pm, on Thursday, April 16, at the Library of Michigan, in the Auditorium and Lake Erie Room. The City of Lansing will make the arrangements and the exhibits will be on display at the Library. Further, the completed documentary will be presented. The Michigan State University Credit Union will provide financial support for this event.

Chair Event:

Peter Hefner of Wonder Women Estate Sales has volunteered to come and comment on the history of various antique chairs (maybe 20-30) brought in by attendees. Bob Rose has volunteered to video this event with city equipment. This event will be held sometime in May.

Zoo Exhibit:

This year is the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Potter Park Zoo. The zoo society has asked the HSGL for help in researching the zoo's history and to present a traveling zoo exhibit including memorabilia and photographs. The anniversary kick-off will be held on May 23. A meeting to plan the event will be held on January 23, and Bob Rose and Bill Castanier plan on attending. All other board members are welcome to attend.

Bill also reported that the zoo has found some video of the late State Journal writer Jim Hough "interviewing" Herman, a burrow at the zoo in the 1970's. Ron Volunteered to edit the video for presentation at the zoo.

Trolley Dedication:

Bob Rose reported that a sign/plaque (graphic sign) will be placed and dedicated at Washington at Cesar Chavez to observe the history of trolleys in Lansing on a date to be determined. Bob, Zig, Mary and Bill contributed to the research for the project.

City Photograph Collection:

Bob and Bill have collected 100-150 photos of Lansing city street scenes from the Lansing City Social Media Department. These will be downloaded to and available on a USB drive.

Annual Meeting & Award:

The meeting will be planned for either May or June at either the Library of Michigan or at Potter Park Zoo. If at the zoo, this may be coupled with the anniversary event and a picnic on May 23. The award ceremony will also take place with the award going to Dr. Brent Knight of LCC. A discussion followed whether this should be a ticketed event, but most likely free with donations solicited.

Walking Tours and Programs:

Bill outlined a proposed or potential schedule of walking tours and programs including the following:

Potter Park Zoo – either May 23 or June 6. This will be part of the Zoo’s 100th anniversary.

Suffrage Tour – scheduled for Saturday, September 12. This will be lead by Valerie and will include local locations relevant to the female suffrage drive.

Magic in Lansing – date to be determined. Dave Muhle will present on the subject using magic ephemera found in one of his eastside buildings that had been owned by William Baird, a Lansing Magician.

North Sycamore/Genesee School Neighborhood – date to be determined. Zig will lead this tour.

Cedar/Holmes, Old Everett neighborhood – date to be determined.

Appraisal Fundraising Event – date to be determined. This will be a repeat event that will allow the public to bring items to get an appraisal of antiques. The appraisers will include Barb Jersey and Peter Hefner.

Moore’s River Park Pool:

There will be a meeting at the Foster community Center on February 17 to plan fundraising to save the pool. The pool was one designed and engineered by Wesley Bintz. Tegan D’Arcangelis Baiocchi, an architectural historian, reports that this pool is the oldest surviving of the hundreds of public pools Bintz designed and built. The Preservation Lansing organization would like HSGL to serve as the fiduciary for

funds raised to save the pool because that organization is not a non-profit. Brett Kazinski from the city would like to tear the pool down because of the high cost of repair and maintenance. Bill recommended that HSGI refrain from accepting this fiduciary responsibility. After further discussion on motion by Ron Emery, seconded by Valerie Marvin, the board voted 9-0 to refrain from accepting that responsibility.

Status of Pave the Way:

On April 16, the Pave the Way project documentary and exhibition will be presented at the Library of Michigan. Board members will be needed to help set up for the exhibits. Dave Muhle will be building the wooden porch at the Library where the exhibit will be displayed. Part of the exhibition will include the youthful artwork of Michael Burton (brother of Adolph Burton and Pave the Way interviewer). Burton became a well-known auto designer at Oldsmobile in Lansing. The Broad Museum also wants to exhibit some of Michael Burton's drawings at the museum on September 20.

Long Term:

Bill reported that Valerie would be leaving the board at the end of her term in June because of the demands of her duties at the State of Michigan. Valerie agreed to do at least one walking tour each summer and will continue to be involved as much as she can. She needs to transfer the receipt and deposit of membership dues, and preparation of the newsletters. Jacob agreed to take over the membership list and PayPal receipt of dues payments. Zig will check the PO box and make deposits. Anne will prepare the labels for mailing out the newsletters. Joan will mail out the hardcopies that need to be mailed out. Someone still needs to take over the preparation of the newsletters.

Bill also noted that several of the trustees (Ron, Tim and Bill) are getting older and to maintain the sustainability of the board, we need additional and preferably younger members. Bob suggested one new member, Ron Eggleston, formerly with Waldemar. Current members should recruit new members.

Adjournment:

On motion by Zig, seconded by Anne, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM. Bill will schedule the next meeting after notice.

Ron Emery

/S/

Secretary

January 20,2020

Approved as amended