

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 28, 2020
Conference Call Entrance Code 910425#
Lansing, MI 48933

President Bill Castanier called the meeting to order at 7:05PM PM.

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

Absent: None

Guest: none

Minutes:

Because of the limited purpose of this meeting, consideration of the minutes of the previous board meeting (January 20, 2020) was tabled.

Treasurer's Report:

Because of the limited purpose of this meeting, no report was presented.

Agenda:

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic and the mandatory shut down of all society activities for the last month, Bill set up this conference call to deal with several pressing issues that he felt needed to be addressed. Thos include the following:

Annual Meeting and Election of new board members:

Normally, this meeting is held in late May or early to mid-June. The question is whether such a meeting can be held under the circumstances. Clearly an in-person meeting cannot be held. Because Valerie and Mary are stepping down, we need two replacements. Bill believes that Adolph Burton would be qualified as well as interested, as he has worked hard on the Pave the Way project. A second new member is also needed. Bill hoped someone with some particular skills such as computer or technological skills could join.

Unable to hold an in-person meeting, discussion then turned to alternative methods of meeting, including Zoom and Skype. Eventually, on motion by Anne, seconded by Bob we voted to hold the annual meeting on June 17th on Zoom. **Vote: 12 yeas, 0 nays.** Zig suggested that it could be simulcast on Facebook at that time.

Notice of the meeting and method of the meeting will be placed in the Newsletter to come out in May.

Historian of the Year Award:

The consensus winners are Lil and Winn Stebbins. Initial discussion concerned whether the award should be given out this year since there would not be an appropriate gathering to honor them. In the end, it was the consensus that the award is made this year and that fact included in the May Newsletter. On motion by Valerie, seconded by Bob, we voted to push back the honor until next year. **Vote: 12 yeas, 0 nays.**

Moore's Park Pool:

Bill provided an update on the pool. The committee dealing with the pool has continued to meet electronically. There continues to be resistance from city to go forward with the project because of its cost. A RFP has been published but bids have not yet been received. There is considerable concern that there are not enough builders that qualified to do the work. Donations have dried up and fundraisers are not consistent with the coronavirus shutdown. There is much concern because the pool as is will deteriorate without water in it and the city will not be opening it or operating it this year.

Potter Park Zoo anniversary & Children's Museum:

This Zoo event will be cancelled for this year and rescheduled for next year as no events or walking tours will likely be possible. Similarly, the Children's Museum anniversary will also be take place in 2021, which is that actual anniversary year.

Other Events:

Because of the coronavirus, Valerie moved, seconded by Bob to not schedule anything live at least until September. **Voted: 12 yeas, 0 nays.**

Helen suggested that we consider producing some virtual tours and programs that can be put on YouTube, FB, Podcasts, and other sites. We should start small, with 5-10 minutes programs on video in Zoom, PowerPoint, and similar type of media. Bob suggested a video of Zig displaying items in our museum collection. Other options included video presentations of Jacob's Lansing photographer program; Bill's presentation on the demolition of Morrill Hall on campus; old programs from local TV; programs from the Clemens Street Library; oral histories obtained for Pave the Way. Bob stressed that "content is the main point" and to keep our organization visible through the pandemic.

Jacob volunteered to set up a YouTube account through Google on which to post these when done.

Pave the Way:

Programs and events:

The program scheduled for Thursday, April 16 at the Library of Michigan as well as all other events have been cancelled. We cannot reschedule them until we find out when the Library of Michigan will open again for such programs. September would likely be the earliest that could occur. With the cancellation, editing of the Documentary has continued and will likely lead to a better product. Regardless, some substantial products have been completed, such as the online neighborhood, and the scrapbook. The online neighborhood covers all but about 200 of the homes impacted by the 496 project. The traveling exhibit is still on hold but the consensus is that this one will not work now in light of the covid-19 shutdown.

Grant Financing:

Bill's main concern about the Pave The Way project is the City's failure to even develop a reimbursement/distribution process for Federal grant money. So far HSGL has spent \$6,700 on the project so far and none has been reimbursed. Although we knew it would not be reimbursed HSGL has also recently spent \$16,500 for display cases. This is a big hit to our general fund. Bill outlined an additional list of projected expenses totaling \$10,250. The question is do we go ahead with these expenditures and what if anything does HSGL do about getting reimbursement from the city. Also what if any liability does HSGL have to the vendors who won't get paid, and does HSGL have any liability to the city if we suspend any further work on the project. Bill does not believe we will ever get reimbursement of the \$6,700. And should we raise that issue with the Mayor directly rather than again approach Marilyn, Mayor Schor's assistant?

On motion by Helen, seconded by Cathy, we voted to suspend further expenditures and finish project as best we can with that limitation. **Voted: 12 yeas, 0 nays.**

Tim, Cathy, Bob, and Ron volunteered to be a committee to meet determine when and how to approach the city and/or the Mayor on this funding issue. We want to make sure we do not appear to be in conflict with or criticize the city and thus, poison further relationships with the city or the mayor.

Adjournment:

On motion by Zig seconded by Anne, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM. Bill will schedule the next meeting after notice.

Ron Emery

/S/

Secretary

April 30, 2020

Approved at February 23, 2021 Meeting

