

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
Zoom Call ID Code 834 2048 7279
Lansing, MI 48933

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

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

Absent: None

Guest: none

Minutes:

A copy of the minutes of the previous board meeting (April 28, 2020) had been sent to all members by email for their review. On motion by Helen, seconded by Tim, the minutes were approved as written. **VOTE: 11 yeas, 0 nays.**

Treasurer's Report:

Tim had no printed summary but reported that as of today's date, the general fund balance was \$13, 728; the museum fund balance was \$34,103. Tim also reported that the organization has a CD in the amount of \$50,000 in Comerica. The grand total for all is \$97,824. The CD matures at the end of April.

Of particular note, Tim reported that revenues, especially memberships, were down substantially to around \$1500 (\$950 memberships). He also reported that total expenditures for 2020 totaled \$4,267. That left a total deficit for the year of \$2,734.

However, already this year, the City has paid the HSGL \$6,000 to reimburse our expenditures for the Pave the Way project.

Tim closed the "feeder account" that was set up several years ago before PayPal became well established. It is into this account the Amazon book sales commissions are deposited. Bill and Tim will change deposit information so that Amazon deposits into the general account.

Valerie's name needs to be removed and Zig's name placed on the Comerica bank account.

Joan initiated an extended discussion about how to increase and encourage renewed revenues for memberships. Since PayPal is well established now, payments through that medium should be encouraged. In order for that to be

successful, the consensus is that we should first sponsor at least two major functions before we start requesting membership dues again.

Zig advised that the annual rental fee for the US Mail Post Office box of \$134 is now due by the end of February. Tim will deliver a check personally by Friday to the post office.

Moore's River Pool Renovation Project

Bill reported that the preservation group for the pool has asked the HSGL to make a donation to the project. They were seeking a \$2500 donation. This would go to help finance the assessment of the costs of the renovation and its chances of success. Joan made a motion to authorize a donation of \$2500. After some discussion about whether the donation should or could be in the form of a grant, the consensus was that it should be in the form of a donation. Tim seconded Joan's motion in favor of the donation. The motion was approved: **VOTE: 11 yeas, 0 nays.**

Valerie suggested that our donation should be publicized so that our membership knows that we are doing something with the money we collect.

Membership

In light of the difficulty in trying to solicit dues payments during the shutdown of activities during the pandemic, the consensus is that we should renew our efforts to recruit new members and encourage renewal of former members. The most obvious way to do that is to publish a new newsletter. The other way is to begin again to sponsor events. Bill suggested that we continue to sponsor Zoom programs. These could include the following:

Publicizing Helen and Charles Micken's display of the Michigan Green Book that has been on display at the Eli Broad Art Museum at MSU this spring.

Sponsoring Mary Jane McClintock Wilson's autobiography that is being published shortly. HSGL will receive the proceeds from sale of the same.

Sponsor a program celebrating the 100th anniversary of Harry's Place near Motor Wheel. It was founded by William Durant to provide a place to eat lunch for factory employees.

Sponsoring a program on the history of sports at Sexton High School.

Valerie suggested co-sponsoring Zoom programs with her Capitol historical agency. Val explained that the Capitol programs for Black History month presented the stories of Black Michiganders involved in state government. This could be an ongoing effort, especially while covid-19 continues to limit in-person programs.

Repeat presenting on Zoom Jacob's MSU Marching Band program and the postcard collection program.

Elections and Recruitment

Bill noted that we need to replace Mary Kwas, and will need to replace Valerie. With three current members over 70, he felt it important to recruit younger members for the board. Zig advised that our Facebook page has about 12,000 viewers from which we should be able to find younger board candidates. Bill encouraged current board members to seek out potential candidates.

Adjournment and next meeting

On motion by Helen, seconded by Zig, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 23rd at 7 pm.

Ron Emery

/S/

Secretary

February 25, 2021

Approved at July 13, 2022 Meeting