

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, July 13, 2022
Zoom Call ID Code 834 2048 7279
Lansing, MI 48933

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

Present: Bill Castanier, Anne Wilson, Tim Kaltenbach, Bob Rose, Jacob McCormick, Joan Bauer, Cathy Babcock, Helen Mickens, and Ron Emery. Zig Olds arrived after the meeting started.

Absent: None

Guest: none

1. Secretary's Report: Minutes:

Ron had sent out a copy of the minutes from the February 23rd, and November 18, 2021 meetings electronically. Neither had been approved heretofore. On motion by Helen, seconded by Joan, the minutes of both meetings were approved as written by a 9-0 vote. Ron also reminded that there were no minutes of the December 2021 annual meeting, including election results. Bill indicated that he would draft a summary of that meeting, particularly the election results.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Tim reported the following:

The main fund (museum) has a balance of \$84,500; the general fund balance is \$2,645; Tim intends to purchase a \$50,000 certificate of deposit for the Museum Fund when interest rates improve.

Tim also reported that revenues for 2022 were \$2,121, which is down considerably from the past few years. Dues payments were down to \$879. Donations were \$615, Amazon book revenues was \$171, and cash donations received during tours was \$456.

Expenses for the current year total \$2,566, which included casualty/liability insurance expense of \$1,060, renewal of the post office box of \$166, R E Olds rental expense \$600, the purchase of a new sound system for use on the walking tours, \$714, and \$126 for miscellaneous food items for the tours.

Tim also reported that we purchased 2 new professional caliber display cases for \$16,650 with museum fund moneys in January of 2020. These have been kept at the Library of Michigan since the purchase.

There followed an extended discussion of dues collection history over the last few "fiscal" years which showed annual collections as follows:

2016	\$3700
2017	\$4100
2018	\$4000
2019	\$3000
2020	\$1620

2021 \$835
2020 \$705

Because of increased interest in our Facebook page (16,500 views) and requests for local historical information on it (250 recent requests), the consensus was that we should have a membership drive. Without the newsletter there has been no simple way to notify members when their dues are due. Jacob has the most recent list of members and their dues status.

On motion by Helen, seconded by Cathy, on a vote of 9-0, Tim's treasurers report was accepted.

3. Pave the Way Update

Bill reported that the project is in a holding pattern while the city edits the documentary program for use in an upcoming City sponsored film festival. HSGL still is awaiting reimbursement for the city for \$2,000. The delay was caused by the departure of Marilyn from the City which delayed the City's efforts to get the Federal grant money to repay HSGL. Bill also noted that the documentary received a number of accolades. Channel 47 TV out of Detroit aired a 6-minute segment of the project featuring Kenny Turner on the "Great Migration." They were so impressed with the project they hired a local reporter who reported on the project for their television station.

Bill also suggested that we enlist someone to nominate our organization for an award to recognize our effort in completing the Pave the Way project. Bill will discuss this in the future.

4. Update on LCC and Roger Carrier House Project

Bill has had contact with Steve Richardson, LCC President about the proposed agreement to partner with HSGL to allow us to use one of the college's old historical homes, the Roger Carrier House, as a museum. Preliminary discussions would have LCC refurbish the outside while HSGL would do the inside to make it exhibit ready. LCC would commit \$600,000-700,00 for the outside work. HSGL would need to raise money for the inside. Bill does not think \$84,000 currently in our museum fund would be enough money for our part of the project. Bill figures we may need as much as \$200,000 to do so, in which case we need to do some serious fund raising.

Bill proposed a site committee be established to determine the detailed plans for the interior of the building. Bill solicited interested members to volunteer for this committee. In order to successfully fund raise the consensus is that the HSGL needs to do at least two things: articulate what we do in the community, and monetize the things that we do. Bill and others believe that we have been too reticent in publicizing what we do, and in seeking donations and financial support for our projects. This needs to change.

Bill advised that LCC officials are still "excited" about this joint project, and especially want to be able to include students in the museum project. However, Steve Richardson and LCC want the project to remain under wraps until LCC is ready to

announce the project which will occur after we enter into the memoranda of understanding.

5. Walking Tours

Facebook has been a big help in advertising our walking tours and events and has increased participation in them recently. A discussion took place concerning having shirts for sale to publicize the events and putting titles on the video recordings of the tours for use on sites like YouTube, etc. The events on the calendar or in planning now are as follows:

- a. Harry's Bar and Billy Durant Program is set for July 30th. This tour will highlight a site important to Motor Wheels history and the Verlinden area of Lansing.
- b. Michigan Avenue. This would focus on the RE Olds Museum and museum drive area of Michigan Avenue.
- c. CATA to celebrate its 50th anniversary
- d. Heritage Hall in the State Capitol. The dedication will be held in September around the 5th. Valerie will present a program entitled "An insider's look at the Capitol." This is one of the video's that was suggested as an opportunity to attach titles to.

6. Dave Muhle's Tiki Hut

Dave Muhle, who rented space in his downtown building to HSGl for years is on the verge of opening a Tiki Hut in his newly rebuilt neighborhood south of Michigan Avenue. This is scheduled to occur in late September.

7. Historian of the Year Award

Bill suggested three candidates for this award, Valerie Marvin, Jim McLean, and Craig Whitford. The latter two have already been given a similar award by Ingham County. After some discussion, the consensus was to present the award to all three. On motion by Bob, seconded by Tim, the motion passed 10-0.

8. Downtown Exhibit Potential

Bill and Bob discussed the potential downtown store fronts present for HSGl exhibits such as at the Knapp's building for the Pave the Way project.

9. Web Development

Bill suggested that we need professional assistance in developing a web site for the organization. He felt that we should allocate up to \$2,000 to hire someone to carry this out. On the site we should have our past newsletters available in a searchable data base. Ann and Jacob volunteered to work to digitize the newsletters to make them searchable.

10. Pleasant Grove School Project

Joel Ferguson is planning on renovating the school and turning it into a community center named to honor Malcolm X. Bill suggested that \HSGL should get involved to curry more interest in our organization.

11. Family Collections

A number of local families have offered their historical photos and records to us. The HSGL has the opportunity to go through some of its historical records and photos to determine which will be saved by HSGL.

Zig has already started to scan these in anticipation of our decision to keep some or all of them. Zig could use some help. The families and collections include the following:

- a. Stebbins Family
- b. Barbara Roberts Mason Collection-first Black female politician in Michigan
- c. Phil Seivers Estate
- d. McClear Collection- Delta River Drive photos

12. Election and Recruitment of Members

The Board members then discussed the need for more board member candidates. The consensus was that the new candidates need to be younger and more diverse. Maybe we should dedicate one seat to LCC since we will be partnering with them in the Carrier house project. Two names that were mentioned as potential candidates who worked extensively on the Pave the Way project are Kenny Turner and Adolph Burton.

13. Adjournment and next meeting

On motion by Ron, seconded by Bob, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 17th, at 7 pm.

Ron Emery

/S/

Secretary

August 16, 2022

Approved at the December 6, 2022 Meeting