

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, May 25, 2023  
1922 Moores River Drive, Lansing  
Zoom Call 826 6253 3160  
Lansing, MI 48933

President Bill Castanier called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

**Present:** Bill Castanier, Anne Wilson, Zig Olds, Bob Rose, Cathy Babcock Joan Bauer, Tim Kaltenbach, Helen Mickens (via Zoom) and Ron Emery.

**Excused Absences:** Jacob McCormick

**Guests:** none

**Minutes:**

Secretary Ron had distributed the minutes of the previous board meeting (February 25, 2023) by email. On motion by Joan Bauer, seconded by Cathy Babcock, the minutes were unanimously approved as written, 9 yeas, 0 nays.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Tim Kaltenbach reported in writing the following balances as of the dates indicated:

General Fund

Balance as of 12-6-22	\$2,417.86
Revenue	4,392.28
Expenses	(5,303.65)
Balance as of 5-24-23	1,506.49

Revenues Dec-May

Dues	823.31
Donations	3,429.13
Book sales	139.84

Expenses

Books	15.89
Equipment	613.45
Insurance	1,076.96
Parking	88.80
Photo copying	1,728.25
Postage	202.50
Program	583.71
Rent	600.00
Supplies	394.09

Museum Fund

Balance as of 12-6-22	\$84,474.83
Bank Fees	(41.70)
Balance as of 5-24-23	84.433.13
 Grand Total	 \$85,939.62

Tim reported that the numbers reflect dues and walking tour revenue as well as a donation from Foresight Printing. Bill will send a thank you to Foresight for the donation. Most of the expenses reported relate to the panoramic exhibit. Tim expects the insurance expense to rise after we move into the Moon House. On motion by Ron, seconded by Bob Rose, Tim’s report was accepted and placed on file. Vote 9 yeas, 0 nays.

**Review of Visioning and Mission Statement**

Jacob was to report on the visioning session and the drafting of the mission statement. In Jacobs absence, Bill reported that the mission statement is almost complete.

**Roger Carrier (Moon) House Project and fundraising**

Bill reported that the exterior restoration and roof repair have been completed at LCC expense. Bill, Bob and Joan met with LCC President Steve Robinson and four other representatives who reported that the sewer hookup needs to be replaced and LCC will pay for this. LCC will also pay for an ADA compliant bathroom and entrance/exit, a bay window, and a new garage attached to the Hermann House which we may be able to use. At a future meeting we will need to review and sign a Memoranda of Understanding regarding the Moon house. President Robinson said that the university community was “very excited” about the project and future use of the building, especially the faculty. He also noted that there has been increased interest in LCC as knowledge of the project grows.

**Humanities Council Grant - Origin Stories**

Bill expects a decision on our request for a \$25,000 federal humanities grant soon. Cathy wrote and submitted the grant request based on our anticipated “Origin Stories” project. The project will highlight the stories of multiple people describing their coming to Lansing and the mid-Michigan area. The project will develop a video that can be used as a “sizzle reel” to advertise our organization, who we are and what we do. The video will then be made available to local media and groups to publicize the HSGL and our projects. The “Origin Stories” project will be undertaken regardless whether we get the Humanities grant or not. The grant money will be used to obtain professional help in developing and editing the video. Cathy also included a request for money to finance volunteer time in furtherance of the project. Cathy will distribute the narrative she included in the grant application so that we all will understand the full nature and extent of the project.

Bill has already some good potential “origin story” candidates for consideration: i.e., the owner of Linn & Owen Jewelers from the Ukraine. The grant plan would allow the Humanities Council access to our projects including taking them around the state, with attribution to the HSGL. We would retain the original exhibits but would allow the Council to take “traveling copies” of the projects.

### **Pave the Way Update**

- a. Documentary  
Bill reported that the finished documentary will be shown at Lansing’s Media Center at the old Guard Armory on South Washington on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 in the afternoon.
- b. T-shirts  
T-shirts will go on sale to hype the Pave the Way project. Bill displayed one at the meeting.
- c. A spin-off of the project will be on exhibition at the RE Olds Museum

### **Shabazz Academy Redevelopment Support Letter**

A Wisconsin based organization called Commonwealth Companies, has asked if HSGL would write a letter to support a request the company made for a federal designation of the former academy as a historical site. The designation recognizes the buildings historical significance as an example of the architecture of Judson Churchill who designed it and many other Lansing School District buildings. The renovation of the building will be part of a \$16M project along Barnes Avenue. Ron moved, seconded by Cathy, to authorize Bill to draft a letter of support for the designation. The motion carried 9 yeas, 0 nays.

### **Summation of the “By the Yard Exhibit”**

Bill recognized Bob Rose for his work on this project that involved a large outdoor painting in Old Town.

### **Walking Tours and Programs**

Bill outlined the proposed schedule of walking tours and programs to cover May 30<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. A list of the events is attached. (See Attachment A)

### **Archives/Collections**

Bill made the following comments on the Archive/Collections items listed below:

- a. Hermann Material – HSGL received 3 boxes of documents
- b. Abrams Aerial material – we received these materials that were previously exhibited at the RE Olds Museum.
- c. MSU material – these Lansing related materials must be removed from the MSU surplus facility by the end of July
- d. Plymouth Church material – these documents and records pertain to the church and its successor church which have since closed down

- e. Art Davis Collection –Davis was an early Lansing airplane pilot who participated in and won many air races
- f. Our storage capacity has recently been tested and we may need extra storage space. There will not be much room for storage at the Moon House once we move in there.

### **Fundraising Strategies**

Bill suggested that we establish a schedule based on the timetable received from LCC in which we could solicit donations in the form of events such as a “shower” or “house warming” for the museum.

### **Annual Meeting and Executive Board Candidates**

Jacob is working on planning the next annual meeting which will require the election of officers as well as selection of new trustees. Ron will peruse our records to see who needs to be included on a slate of candidates who will “re-up”. Two possible candidates were discussed- Ken Turner who worked hard on “Pave the way”, and a 25-year-old co-worker of Jacob at the Capitol, and a 55-year-old acquaintance of Joan.

### **Additional Exhibits to Consider**

Bill suggested that we start now thinking of new program ideas for next year, including the following:

- a. Lost art and artists
- b. Lansing area baseball teams
- c. Lansing area restaurants and eating places
- d. WWII and bicycles
- e. The only Michigan President, Jerry Ford

### **Adjournment:**

On motion by Zig, seconded by Anne, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM. Bill will schedule the next meeting after notice.

Ron Emery

/S/

Secretary

June 6, 2023

Approved as ~~written~~/amended at the November 13, 2023 meeting.