

## BERKLEY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 13, 2021

**Present:** S. Richardson (Chairperson), J. Tong (Vice-Chairperson), D. Carlson (Secretary), M.C. Mueller, J. Cauley, Glenn Rubright, S. Hansen (non-voting), D. Callihan (non-voting), City Council Liaison S. Baker

**Absent:** K. Schmeling, K. Scharra-Eraqi, R. Patterson, W. Mathis (Treasurer/non-voting)

1. The meeting was called to order by S. Richardson at 7:03 pm. S. Richardson called for possible amendments to the meeting agenda and noted her intention to add a *City Council Liaison Report* to future meeting agendas, to follow *Citizen Comments* at future meetings. S. Hansen stated her intention to deliver the Treasurer's report in place of W. Mathis. S. Richardson called for a motion to approve the meeting's agenda. D. Carlson made a motion to approve the meeting's agenda. J. Tong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion. S. Richardson called for citizen comments and none were made.
2. S. Richardson called for possible corrections to the minutes for the August 10th, 2021 meeting of the Committee. None were suggested. J. Tong made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10th, 2021 meeting of the Berkley Historical Committee. M.C. Mueller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.
3. **City Council Liaison Report** ~ City Council Person S. Baker made the following statements:
  - a. A 'thank you' to the Berkley Historical Committee for our participation in the Berkley Art Bash.
  - b. 'Congratulations' to D. Callihan on the successful inaugural issue of the Berkley Historical Committee's newsletter.
  - c. Future uses for the former site of Farina's are currently being considered by the City Council.

- d. Construction of the *Berkley Plaza*, just south of Catalpa on the east side of Coolidge, has commenced. It is being transformed into a public space that will include seating and food truck hosting.
  - e. The Technology Advisory Committee is still working hard on providing the Historical Committee with credit card usage technology and is likely to deliver within the 2021 calendar year.
  - f. The Downtown Development Authority has managed the successful installation of 30 new public benches in the vicinity of 12 Mile & Coolidge and will be seeking sponsorships for said benches in the coming months, though the sponsorship program is not yet ready to launch. In a separate project, the Berkley Public Library is undertaking installation of five benches in the vicinity of the library and will also be seeking sponsorships.
  - g. A possible rewrite of the City Charter currently being considered by City Council would permit the executive members of city committees with no stated cap on membership to present to City Council for approval the applications of non-residents, for service on said committees with full voting privileges. D. Carlson offered to author a standard letter of support for future non-resident applicants for long term use. S. Richardson offered to author a letter in the short term for any applicants who might be considered within the next few weeks.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** S. Hansen made the Treasurer's Report in place of Treasurer W. Mathis. S. Hansen stated that the prior balance of \$17,721.84 from the last report increased by only \$20. The income came from miscellaneous museum sales and museum donations, with a resulting balance of \$17,741.84. There were no expenditures. J. Tong reported nearly \$170 from Berkley Art Bash sales and \$439 from petty cash and sign sales to soon be deposited, as well.
5. **Curator's Report:** Committee Vice-Chairperson J. Tong made a motion to expend the necessary funds to purchase up to 75 new Christmas ornaments for sale at the Museum. D. Carlson seconded the motion. G. Rubright suggested that we change up the image for this year's mug and use the Berkley Theatre artwork. The Committee agreed. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

- 6.** S. Richardson noted the low attendance at the 2021 CruiseFest opening of the Museum and asked Committee members for opinions on opening for next year's event. A general consensus was reached that we should open again for CruiseFest in 2022 and revisit the subject again at the meeting immediately following said opening.
- 7.** D. Calihan initiated discussion regarding the Committee's presence at the Berkley Art Bash and called for suggestions on how the Committee might improve its presentation at future Art Bash events. More retail sales items, a banner with Committee and Museum info and displays of historical photography were put forth as possible improvements. D. Calihan, J. Tong and D. Carlson volunteered to serve on a sub-committee for improving the Committee's Art Bash presentation in coming years.
- 8.** D. Calihan spoke upon the successful publication and distribution of the Berkley Historical Committee's inaugural newsletter and stated his intent to have the next issue ready around Thanksgiving 2021. The history of the Angell School and the Berkley Historical Museum's 30th anniversary were mentioned as possible subjects to be reported on. S. Hansen suggested that a public call for Committee membership ought to be included in the next issue. No progress was reported on enlisting sponsors to finance the newsletter's quarterly publication.
- 9.** J. Tong reported that the recently dissolved Berkley High School Alumni Association has officially decided to donate the remaining \$2,800 of their bank account balance to the Angell School Historical Marker project. Former Angel School history teacher Dani Ozanich will author the marker's text.
- 10.** The Museum's 30th anniversary was discussed. D. Carlson made a motion that the Berkley Historical Committee formally announce, during the public comments portion of the Berkley City Council's Monday, October 18th meeting, our plan to host at the Berkley Historical Museum on the evening of Wednesday, October 27th, a 30th anniversary event, and furthermore to present each Councilperson a complimentary captioned print of a historical photograph of the Berkley Village Hall & Fire-Police Station. M.C. Mueller seconded the motion. J. Tong inquired about the Committee's ability to have the prints ready by the 18th. D. Carlson cited his experience with the photo printer and assured the

Committee the prints will be ready in time. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion. S. Baker suggested further 30th anniversary event promotion efforts be made through the Downtown Development Authority, the Berkley Public Library, the city's social media outlets and the Museum's FB page.

- 11.** J. Tong reported on the Museum's proposed storage area improvements. J. Cauley put forth an all-inclusive estimate of \$890 for six heavy-duty shelving units that have been examined and deemed appropriate for the space. J. Tong made a motion that up to \$900 of Committee funds be expended for the purchase of six heavy-duty shelving units to be placed in the Historical Museum's storage area. J. Cauley seconded the motion. S. Hansen stated her support for the motion but also stated her desire for the Committee to maintain a minimum balance of \$10,000 in its account, in anticipation of a Museum expansion in the coming years. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.
- 12.** J. Tong reported the donation of twenty Berkley High School yearbooks from Raymond Dehnke of Warren, MI. D. Carlson stated his intention to send out a thank you letter to the donor. J. Tong made a motion to accept the donation. G. Rubright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.
- 13.** The Committee's Mission Statement was discussed. S. Richardson produced a Mission Statement authored around 2006 and asked the Committee for their opinions on the need for a rewrite and suggestions for content. There was a general consensus that an updating is needed and that curation of the Museum ought to be added to the current statement. D. Carlson volunteered to rewrite the Mission Statement, to be considered and edited by the entire Committee at the next meeting.
- 14.** D. Calihan spoke on the Committee's possible acquisition of custom internet domain names and presented an array of cost estimates for the purchase of one or two domain names for terms of either one or two years. There was a general consensus that the purchase prices were reasonable and affordable. D. Carlson made a motion that \$83.92 of Committee funds be expended for the purchase of the custom domain names *berkleyhistory.com* and *berkleyhistory.org*, each for a two year period at \$41.96 each.

M.C. Mueller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

- 15.** S. Richardson related to the Committee details of a Downtown Development Authority event known as *Boo-kley Night* and their plan to run a city-wide scavenger hunt on the night of the event, and asked the Committee's permission to participate by allowing the placement of a "hidden" tombstone near the Museum's entrance. The Committee agreed to participate.
- 16.** The possibility of a Berkley Historical Committee & Museum Internship was discussed. The details of an internship program associated with the Rochester Museum were presented by S. Baker. The Committee's desire and willingness to financially commit to such a program were discussed at length. The benefits of having an intern were enumerated and debated at length by multiple Committee members. S. Hansen stated her support for such an expenditure. J. Tong stated that the Museum's storage area improvements ought to first be completed before further exploring internship possibilities. There was a general agreement to revisit the issue at a future meeting after the storage area improvements are completed.
- 17.** D. Carlson noted his upcoming online Parducci lectures on October 6th, 14th and 20th and expressed his intention to email Committee members registration information in the days preceding.
- 18.** The Museum shift sign-up calendar was passed around.
- 19.** D. Carlson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:44 pm. M.C. Mueller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.