BERKLEY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
SUNDAY, APRIL 14th, 2019

Present: S. Richardson (Chairperson), J. Tong (Vice-Chairperson), W. Mathis (Treasurer), G. Rubright, D. Hunter, D. Milner, M.C. Mueller, D. Carlson


Non-Voting Attendees: Steve Baker (City Council Liaison), Shirley Hansen

1. Meeting called to order by Sue Richardson at approximately 4:10pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. S. Richardson called for possible additions to the meeting’s agenda. J. Tong requested addition of announcement and discussion of an upcoming grade school visit to the Historical Museum. The item was added. Approval of meeting agenda: Moved J. Tong, 2nd D. Milner; Passed unanimously without discussion.

4. S. Richardson called for possible corrections to the previous meeting’s minutes. D. Milner requested a correction to his name’s spelling. D. Milner recommended corrections to the factual accuracy of the documentation of a Berkley High School Cyclotron-related donation to the museum. Both items were corrected. Approval of prior meeting’s minutes: Moved D. Milner, 2nd W. Mathis; Passed unanimously without discussion.

5. Officer Reports:
   - Historical Committee Treasurer W. Mathis reported expenditures of $940.00 and income of $386.99 since the committee’s last meeting and a current account balance of $6,791.71. Expenditures of $940.00 included $230.00 for museum plaques and $710.00 for the acquisition of “Past Perfect” software. Income of $386.99 included Museum and Berkley Public Library merchandise sales and donations.
   - Committee Vice-Chairperson and Museum Curator J. Tong reported on a number of issues:
     ~ Five more plaques were added to museum displays.
     ~ Initiated talks with Royal Oak Historical Museum Director B. Mueller regarding upcoming lectures about early Berkley pioneers. No date for lectures set yet.
     ~ Upcoming “Berkley Restaurants” museum display. Over 50 restaurants to be included.
     ~ “Past Perfect” arrival. Still in box.
     ~ The Berkley Class of 1958 reunion mug purchase plan will likely be scrapped.
     ~ Currently in discussions with the Michigan State Library regarding plans for 1923 to 1925 issues of the ‘Berkley Tribune’ to be digitized by Clark Historical Society. Price estimates forthcoming. D. Hunter recommended that the museum withhold publication of any materials contained within these issues until it is determined with certainty that they have entered the public domain. J. Tong concurred.

6. Donations: Vice-Chairperson J. Tong reported the donation of an all-in-one TV/VCR by his brother-in-law Mario Bulgarelli and a Berkley High School tapestry by resident Al
Havener, who took it upon himself to make the necessary travels to purchase said tapestry from a Craig’s List seller based in Ann Arbor. Acceptance of donations: Moved D. Milner, 2nd D. Hunter; passed unanimously without discussion.

8. Berkley Days 2019: Thorough discussion of the event and the committee’s possible presence took place. S. Hansen suggested attendance might be low this year. J. Tong suggested the planned increase in total number of carnival rides might increase attendance. There was a general consensus that parking will be critical to attendance. It was noted that the city will run a shuttle from the high school parking lot to the event location. Committee discussion centered around the question of how much time the committee will devote to a presence within event. J. Tong noted that the committee could opt to commit to one, two or three days of the event and described the likely location of the committee’s presentations.

~D. Milner moved that the committee commit to being present at the 2019 Berkley Days event on Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 18th. A committee member seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. S. Richardson called for a vote. The motion did not pass.

~D. Carlson moved that the committee commit to being present at the 2019 Berkley Days event on Friday, May 17th, Saturday, May 18th and Sunday May 18th. Exhaustive discussion of a possible volunteer schedule ensued with D. Carlson noting his intent to be present for all committee-related Berkley Days events on both the Friday and Sunday of the event, including set-up and take-down of the committee’s materials and presentation. S. Richardson called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

~J. Tong notified the committee of his intent to start an email chain regarding the 2019 Berkley Days volunteer schedule.

9. Berkley History Month: S. Richardson noted May’s distinction of being “Berkley History Month” and that the committee has been asked by representatives of the city to contribute. Discussion of possible contributions ensued. It was noted the Berkley Historical Museum will be closed for three Sundays in the month of May thus rendering the month slightly less than ideal for the Historical Committee’s public presence. S. Baker noted that the Village of Berkley was founded in April of 1923 and that a public proclamation noting May’s status as “Berkley History Month” will be made at the next Berkley City Council meeting. J. Tong and S. Richardson declared their intention to attend this meeting. S. Hansen recommended that the text of the City Council’s proclamation be posted on the museum’s Facebook page. D. Hunter recommended a daily “Berkley History Month/On This Date” style post on the museum’s Facebook page and D. Carlson volunteered to assist in the creation of said posts.

9. McCarty Team Gift: Discussion of a gift to thank the McCarty Team for their production of a series of Berkley history-related videos took place. J. Tong expressed an interest in scrapping previously proposed gift plans in favor of a charitable donation in the McCarty Team’s name. Discussion ensued. J. Tong moved that the committee donate $100 in the McCarty Team’s name to the Royal Oak Animal Shelter. A committee member seconded the motion. D. Hunter expressed his opposition to committee funds being expended in such fashion. The motion passed with a roll call vote in which only committee member D. Hunter opposed.

10. Museum Expansion Plans: S. Baker related to the committee the city manager’s recently expressed intent to soon move forward with the city’s plan to expand the Berkley Historical Museum’s space within the building it is currently housed. Baker also informed the committee of the city’s likely intent to request of the committee a financial contribution to the
necessary renovations of said space which will likely include the removal of a wall. J. Tong encouraged committee members to consider expansion ideas for discussion at future meetings.

11. Rogers Elementary School Visit: J. Tong informed the committee of an upcoming visit to the Historical Museum by students of Rogers Elementary School on the morning of Friday, May 17th and requested volunteer assistance. S. Hansen volunteered to assist.

12. Upcoming Meeting and Museum Volunteer Scheduling: S. Richardson and D. Hunter informed the committee of the logistical difficulties of meeting in May. The committee agreed to meet on June 2nd and issue a public notice in the city website regarding our lack of a May meeting.