

BERKLEY

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Sunday,

June 2, 2019

Present:

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

Absent:

J. Novak, D. Ozanich, R. Raimi, K. Schmeling, D. Stewart, V. Stol

Non-Voting

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

1.

Meeting called to order by Sue Richardson at approximately 4:07pm

2.

Pledge of Allegiance

3.

Sue Richardson noted that discussion of the Berkley Ice Arena's upcoming demolition has been added to the meeting's agenda and called for other possible additions. D. Hunter requested the addition of discussion regarding the upcoming demolition of an historical

structure on Coolidge Highway. S. Hansen and S. Baker requested the addition of discussion regarding upcoming expirations of Berkley Historical Committee member terms. The items were added. J. Tong made a motion to approve the meeting's agenda; 2nd D. Hunter;

passed unanimously without discussion.

4.

S. Richardson invited citizen comments. Non-voting attendee S. Hansen congratulated Committee Vice-Chairperson Jeffery Tong on his recent "Berkley Citizen of the Year" award. D. Milner congratulated Committee Chairperson S. Richardson on her recent retirement.

5.

Review of prior meeting's minutes: Sue Richardson called for corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. None were recommended. J. Tong made a motion to approve the prior meeting's minutes; 2nd W. Mathis; passed unanimously without discussion.

6.

Berkley Art Bash: Scheduling, location and cash box exchange details were discussed thoroughly. The committee's tent location on the NW corner of 12 Mile and Griffith was noted as well as the event's set-up, take-down and participant parking details. M.C.

Mueller volunteered the use of her gazebo style tent. S. Richardson and S. Baker volunteered to provide a table and chairs. S. Baker, S. Hansen and Heather Hames volunteered for the event set-up and opening shift. D. Milner, D. Hunter, M.C. Mueller, S. Richardson,

J. Tong and D. Carlson volunteered to cover the remaining shifts throughout the day. J. Tong and D. Carlson volunteered for the closing shift and event take-down.

7.

Committee member terms of service and upcoming expirations thereof were discussed. Upcoming term expirations were noted for committee members K. Schmeling and V. Stol. City Council Liaison S. Baker noted that K. Schmeling's renewal paperwork has been submitted

and will be considered at the council's upcoming June 17th meeting. S. Richardson expressed her intention to contact V. Stol regarding possible renewal.

8.

Historical Committee Officer Reports:

-Treasurer

W. Mathis reported expenditures of \$200.00 and income of \$180.00 since the committee's last meeting and a current account balance of \$6,771.71. Expenditures of \$200.00 included \$100.00 for museum plaques and a \$100.00 donation to the Michigan Animal Shelter in the name of the McCarty Real Estate Team.

-Vice-Chairperson

and Museum Curator J. Tong reported on a number of issues:

~Noted intention to visit John King Books in Detroit

in the coming week with D. Carlson in hopes of acquiring a vintage Berkley city guide or telephone book.

~Noted recent discovery with D. Hunter, in the museum's

storage area within city hall, multiple negatives depicting numerous Berkley street views, most likely shot in the 1970s. Expressed intention to digitize said negatives in the coming months.

~Noted recent discovery, in the museum's storage area

within city hall, a VHS videotape series focusing on Berkley history, produced by former Committee Chairperson Carol Ring, including footage of the Berkley Historical Museum's opening day. Expressed intention to digitize said tapes in the coming months, through

a source that will likely complete the conversions at no cost to the committee.

~Reported \$178.00 in donation and sales income realized

at the 2019 Berkley Days event, a significantly lower total than the prior year. Low attendance at the craft show, resulting from a venue change, was cited as a contributing factor. Also noted were the likelihood that the committee will realize a greater profit

at next year's event, similar to years past, and the upcoming August division of Berkley Days' community income, of which the committee will receive a substantial portion.

~A successful contribution to "Berkley History Month"

in the form of daily "On This Day in Berkley History..." style Facebook posts made by himself; contribution acknowledged by Berkley City Council.

~A successful day of visits to the Berkley History Museum

by students and teachers from Rogers Elementary School on May 17th. Toy fire helmet supply was exhausted; re-order is on the way. Museum received some written "Thank You" communiques. Numerous photos of visits posted to Facebook.

~Discussions continue with the Michigan State Library

regarding digitization plans for 1923 to 1925 issues of the 'Berkley Tribune'. Clark Historical Society quote (approx. \$500) is twice that of private group's (\$250). Permission to to use private group has been requested.

~Little development of Berkley City Hall renovation/Berkley

Historical Museum expansion plans, though it now appears likely the museum will acquire the space within City Hall currently used as the garage. Renovation will likely occur in 2021.

~Clean-Up and organization of museum's upstairs storage

space remains an ongoing project. More “muscle” in the form of volunteer hours was requested of committee members capable of heavy lifting. S. Hansen noted Dan McCarty’s desire to provide volunteer hours in this

capacity. D. Carlson offered future assistance by appointment.

~An ongoing project to acquire for the museum the original

cornerstone of the “Berkley School” (built 1919) is underway with the assistance of a variety of Berkley citizens including Mabel Fraser, Larry McNaught and committee member D. Hunter. Acquisition is likely within a month or two. The cornerstone is currently

located next to the small service building on Catalpa Drive directly across the street from Berkley High School and in the immediate vicinity of the school’s athletic field. Details of transporting cornerstone to museum

are still being developed. Disposition of time capsule formerly embedded within cornerstone is unknown.

9.

City Council Liaison S. Baker recognized statements made by J. Tong and S. Richardson at a recent City Council meeting that was subsequently posted on YouTube. D. Milner’s attendance at said council meeting was also acknowledged.

10.

Donations: Vice-Chairperson J. Tong reported no new donations since our prior meeting.

11.

J. Tong requested that discussion of “Friends Group” be dropped from the agenda. The item was dropped.

12.

Ice Arena Tour: S. Richardson announced an upcoming “pre-demolition” tour of the Berkley Ice Arena that will be open to any committee members who wish to attend. J. Tong noted that the committee will acquire some arena signage at the conclusion of demolition.

S. Richardson indicated her intention to email further details to committee members as they develop. Date and time are yet to be determined.

13.

D. Hunter expressed to the committee his interest in attempting to salvage possible historically significant artifacts from a structure on Coolidge Highway slated for demolition in the near future. “John Nauman” was noted as the architect and D. Hunter requested

D. Carlson further research his architectural career. The possibility of a pre-demolition walk-through was suggested. S. Hansen stated her that she could likely make such arrangements through personal contacts. Further details forthcoming.

14.

S. Hansen suggested that the committee invest in “Berkley Historical Museum” T-Shirts for committee members to wear at community events in which we participate as an organization, in order to increase both the committee’s and the museum’s visibility, and also

to aid the public in identifying committee members present at events. Discussion ensued with mostly favorable opinions of the idea. J. Tong asserted the need for prices and sizing. There was debate on the subject of who would finance the purchase; the committee

or individual members. S. Richardson stated that the issue would be added to the next’s meeting’s agenda and also noted the date and time of our next meeting, July 14th, 2019 at 4pm.

15.

Upcoming Berkley Historical Museum volunteer shifts were scheduled.

16.

Adjournment: Moved D. Milner, 2nd J. Tong; Passed unanimously without discussion.