

BERKLEY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Present: S. Richardson (Chairperson), J. Tong (Vice-Chairperson), D. Carlson (Secretary), M.C. Mueller, J. Cauley

Absent: K. Schmeling, G. Rubright

Regular non-voting attendees W. Mathis (Treasurer) and Shirley Hansen were present.

1. The meeting was called to order by S. Richardson at 7:25 pm. S. Richardson called for possible amendments to the meeting agenda. D. Carlson requested the addition of discussion of the Berkley Village Hall Historical Marker project. The item was added. S. Hansen requested that discussion of a condolence gift for City Councilperson Steve Baker, whose wife Nicole Artanowicz recently passed away, be added to the agenda. The item was added. S. Richardson called for a motion to approve the meeting's agenda. J. Tong made a motion to approve the meeting's agenda as amended. D. Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion. S. Richardson called for citizen comments and none were made.
2. S. Richardson called for amendments to the minutes for the Nov. 10, 2020 meeting of the Committee. S. Richardson recommended that the name "Dan Hill" be stricken from bullet point #10 in the prior meeting's notes and be replaced with "Matt Baumgarten", the correct name of Berkley's City Manager. D. Carlson noted the needed correction and expressed his intent to make it. J. Tong made a motion to approve the minutes of the Nov. 10, 2020 meeting of the Berkley Historical Committee with the aforementioned correction included. J. Cauley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.
3. Treasurer's Report: Committee Treasurer W. Mathis reported expenditures of \$854.66 and income of \$2,233.00 since our last Treasurer's Report, with a resulting balance of \$16,635.39. Income of \$2,233.00 came from street sign sales, mug sales, miscellaneous museum sales and museum donations. Expenditures were enumerated as follows:

- a. \$40.00 to Bank [non-sufficient funds charge for returned customer check]
- b. \$98.00 to American Association for State and Local History [membership dues]
- c. \$120.00 to D. Carlson [lot of ten of Corrado Parducci Field Guides]
- d. \$352.56 to Pine State [holiday mugs]
- e. \$244.10 to P. Zimmerman [Berkley School cornerstone plaque]

W. Mathis also reported causation for a recent discrepancy in the Committee's reported balance at a prior meeting, citing a previously unreported printing expenditure of \$140.00. She also noted recent income of \$176 yet to be deposited.

4. Curator's Report: Committee Vice-Chairperson J. Tong informed members of recent developments enumerated below.
 - a. City administrators have dropped attempts to acquire the Old La Salette School for use as city offices.
 - b. A new roof will be put on the Berkley Village Hall in 2021. The look of the roof as it appeared from the 1940s to the 1970s will be emulated and it will be slate grey in color. Also, exterior light fixtures of the 1920s style featured in historical photos will be added in the coming year.
 - c. A new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system will be installed in the Village Hall in 2021. Exact dates of installation are not yet announced.
 - d. According to City Manager Matt Baumgarten and Public Policy Assistant Dan Hill, continuing improvements and renovations of the Village Hall will result in additional space for the Berkley Historical Museum within the next two years. No exact date has been established.
 - e. Berkeley Days 2021 is cancelled on account of the pandemic.
 - f. The street sign inventory has been updated.
 - g. Mug sales have continued to be steady and solid.
 - h. The plaque commemorating the cornerstone of Berkley School has been installed. Photos of the installation will soon be sent out to Committee members.

5. J. Tong, S. Richardson and D. Carlson discussed the continuing effort to acquire an additional plaque commemorating the recently transplanted historic section of sidewalk near the Village Hall and stated their intention to further pursue their pre-pandemic plan of action in the coming weeks and months.

6. S. Richardson acknowledged Committee member Jason Cauley's recent Huntington Woods Public Library Zoom presentation on the KKK, cross burnings and white nationalism in early to mid-20th century Southeast Oakland County, congratulated him on the quality of his research and program, and noted his honorable representation of the Committee. J. Tong noted that J. Cauley donated the honorarium for his presentation to the Berkley Historical Committee's general fund. D. Carlson noted his upcoming August Zoom presentation for the same public library, covering nearby works of Corrado Parducci.

7. J. Tong reported numerous recent gifts to the Museum:
 - a. From Edie & Roger Watson of Berkley: Golden Book collection, other books, Fisher Price record player and other assorted toys, dollhouse, Spaghetti Factory baseball jersey
 - b. From Jack Blanchard of Berkley: 1957 metal dollhouse
 - c. From Steven Allen of Berkley: a Berkley Christmas Day Parade banner from an unknown year.
 - d. From Steve Gulyas of Plymouth, Michigan: Working slide and Kodak 8mm film projectors + numerous other photo and film related items

J. Tong also noted the presence of slides and 8mm films in our present collection and that Mr. Gulyas' donation now makes it possible for us to view them. J. Tong made a motion to accept the aforementioned gifts. J. Cauley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion. A recent museum display containing some of the aforementioned gifts to the museum, arranged by S. Hansen and her granddaughter, was also acknowledged. D. Carlson stated his intention to send out "thank you" cards to the donors.

8. Future museum openings were discussed. S. Richardson reported that new Covid cases have occurred among City Hall employees and asked for the Committee's thoughts on reopening. D. Carlson noted the current statewide vaccination effort and expressed his opinion that the Museum should remain closed until the effort has concluded and a much higher percentage of the populace is fully vaccinated. J. Tong noted that City management is likely to make the official reopening determinations that the Museum will be subject to. J. Cauley stated his satisfaction with the City's decisions on the matter. Committee members discussed their current vaccination statuses and all members except for J. Cauley reported partial to complete vaccinations. J. Tong concluded the discussion by announcing that the City would likely approve Museum reopenings by June or July of this year.
9. S. Richardson and J. Tong reported on the recent addition of a second computer terminal within the Museum, donated from spares owned by the City with the assistance of Stan Lisica, the City's Chief Innovation Officer. The new terminal's hard drive contains our digital newspaper archive and will offer researchers and the general public greater access to the Museum's digital collection.
10. The recent stroke of Committee member Glenn Rubright was discussed. S. Richardson inquired about Committee members volunteering time to assist in Glenn's recovery effort. S. Hansen, who is in close contact with Glenn's family, noted that Glenn has more than adequate live-in, family assistance and that the best thing Committee members can do at this time is send cards. S. Hansen also stated that if and when an opportunity to assist Glenn with volunteer time comes up she will keep the Committee fully informed of it.
11. The future location of the State of Michigan Historical Marker was discussed. S. Hansen described a position parallel to the face of the Village Hall, squarely in front of the building, facing Coolidge Highway. J. Tong suggested the southwest corner of the Village Hall lot, at a 45 degree angle so that the sign is visible from both Coolidge and Rosemont Street. S. Richardson expressed her preference for this position. D. Carlson described a space in close proximity to the gazebo in the open space on the northeast

side of the Village Hall. It was noted that there is already one plaque commemorating an aspect of Berkley history in this general area. D. Carlson noted that City administrators will likely have an opinion on the subject and that the Committee should probably start by conferring with them. To that end, D. Carlson stated his intention to initiate a dialogue with City Manager Matt Baumgarten and Director of Public Works Derrick Schueller. The text and subject matter of the sign was also discussed. D. Carlson stated his intention to work in close cooperation with S. Richardson and J. Tong in developing text that is both accurate and appealing to the community. D. Carlson also stated his intention to have a first draft of the Historical Marker text prepared by the next meeting of the Committee. The size of the Historical Marker and whether it should feature text on one or both sides, and if it were to be two-sided, whether there should be original text or the same text on opposing sides was also discussed. Decisions on these matters were tabled pending the input of City officials.

12. S. Richardson expressed her intention to pursue with City Manager Matt Baumgarten and Community Engagement Officer Torri Mathes discussions regarding future Zoom-based Committee meetings and to get the latest update on the frequency with which the Committee is currently legally required to meet.
13. S. Richardson noted the recent passing of Nicole Artanowicz, wife of City Councilperson Steve Baker, a good friend of the Committee, a frequent meeting attendee and our liaison with the City. S. Hansen inquired about the possibility of the Committee expending funds for a gift to a preferred charity of Mrs. Artanowicz. It was noted that Mrs. Artanowicz was involved with four to five charities. J. Tong made a motion to expend \$200 of Committee funds on a gift to a preferred charity of Mrs. Artanowicz, provided that such a gift is found to be proper and legal by the appropriate City officials. D. Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion. J. Tong stated his intention to discuss this gift's legality with the proper City officials before proceeding.
14. J. Tong reminded Committee members of his continuing regular presence at the Museum on Wednesdays from 10am to 1pm and invited members to stop by during those hours.

15. D. Carlson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:46 pm. J. Cauley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.