

BERKLEY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Present: S. Richardson (Chairperson), J. Tong (Vice-Chairperson), D. Carlson (Secretary), K. Schmeling, M.C. Mueller, D. Callihan, K. Scharra-Eraqi, K. Grimm, City Council Liaison S. Baker, Berkley resident Dorothy Bennoune

Absent: W. Mathis (Treasurer/non-voting), Glenn Rubright, S. Hansen, R. Patterson, J. Cauley

1. The meeting was called to order by S. Richardson at 7:04 pm. S. Richardson called for amendments to the agenda. D. Carlson asked that discussion of the Museum's monthly credit card fees be added. The item was added. S. Richardson called for a motion to approve the meeting's agenda as amended. D. Carlson made a motion to approve the meeting's agenda as amended. K. Schmeling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.
2. **Citizen comments:** Berkley resident Dorothy Bennoune informed the Committee that she has begun the process to become a Committee member.
3. **City Council Liaison Report:** City Council Liaison Steve Baker reported on a number of matters.
 - a. The last City Council meeting on October 3rd included Mike McGuiness' rundown of upcoming "Boo-kley Days" events including the 2nd annual "Monster Mash" and discussion of Oakland County's upcoming mass transit millage renewal vote.
 - b. The size of the city's planning commission has been reduced from nine members to seven.
 - c. The city's next major street repair project will focus on Wiltshire Road. An engineering study of the project will begin in the Spring of 2023.
4. S. Richardson called for possible corrections to the minutes for the September 13th, 2022 meeting of the Committee. None were put forth. J. Tong made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the September 13th, 2022 meeting of the Berkley Historical Committee. D. Callihan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Tabled until next meeting on account of W. Mathis' absence.

6. **Curator's Report:** J. Tong reported on a number of matters.
 - a. The old "Berkley Public Works" sign now belongs to the museum. An appropriate location for display will be determined and the sign hung in the coming months.
 - b. The Berkley High School Class of 1962 made a \$100 donation after their recent group visit to the museum.
 - c. Committee member Don Callihan recently appeared on a podcast produced by Berkley High students and discussed the architectural histories of Berkley school structures.
 - d. Committee member submissions for the upcoming 100th Anniversary catalog are due to the catalog publishers by March 1st and should therefore be submitted to the Committee by mid-January to satisfy this deadline.
 - e. City Council members will make individual contributions to the upcoming time capsule project. The deadline for Committee member contributions is March 1st.
 - f. An order for the Berkley magnets has been placed and delivery is expected within weeks.

7. **Gifts to the Museum:** J. Tong reported a number of gifts made to the Museum over the last month:
 - a. A former Pattengill School secretary has donated to the Museum a wooden phone booth that was a fixture within the school building for decades. Transport of the artifact to the Museum will likely cost upwards of \$1,000.
 - b. Janet Flick donated on behalf of the Bernard Van Heuster family six automobile models.
 - c. Debbie Gras donated on behalf of George & Marilyn Stefan a collection of memorabilia including Berkley High School newspapers, four Dream Cruise pins, three commemorative glasses, Andersen Junior High School yearbooks, a Berkley 50th anniversary medal, a Dream Cruise bag and five Berkley High School yearbooks.
 - d. D. Callihan reported a donation of a Berkley High School sweater with no accompanying documentation but stated his intention to provide it by the next

meeting. D. Carlson made a motion to accept all reported donations. K. Scharra-Eraqi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

8. J. Tong made a motion that up to \$1,200 be expended for the transport of the donated Pattengill School phone booth from its present location to the Museum. K. Grimm seconded the motion. D. Carlson expressed concerns about fitting the booth inside the Museum. J. Tong assured the Committee that the phone booth's size will be considered thoroughly before moving forward. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.
9. **Historical Marker Reports:** D. Carlson informed the Committee that the check for the Village Hall marker has been sent and that we currently await delivery. D. Callihan reported delivery of the Angell School marker and that he will work with school principal Vince Gigliotti on the planning of a possible unveiling ceremony. He will next work on procuring an historical marker for the Pattengill School.
10. **“Berkley Home” plaques:** Discussion of the “Berkley Home” plaques project continued. J. Tong again passed around two prototypes fabricated with composite materials. D. Callihan presented a third prototype to be considered, featuring a material that feels more like plastic than composite. The original composite designs were deemed favorable by the Committee with a 7-2 straw poll result. R. Patterson informed the Committee that the plaque order form is ready. Local real estate agent Dan McCarty has offered to assist the Committee in determining accurate years of local home construction. D. Callihan and K. Grimm volunteered to maintain a database of sold plaques. J. Tong heard aesthetic recommendations and stated his intention to submit new composite prototypes for the Committees consideration at the next meeting.
11. Little progress on the uniform patch and t-shirt projects were again reported by Committee members and all were tabled for discussion at future meetings.

12. Berkeley Kit Home Tour: Developments in the planning of a Berkeley Kit Home Tour tentatively scheduled for May of 2023 were presented by D. Carlson and J. Tong. Details given included:

- a. The tour will likely start and finish at the Museum.
- b. Andrew & Wendy Mutch will be recruited to give a kit home themed lecture at the Berkeley Public Library in the weeks preceding the event.
- c. The tour's price is tentatively set at \$30.
- d. The tour will be run "open house" style, meaning that there will be no organized order in which tourers will be obligated to visit participating homes.
- e. A brochure of tour details and facts regarding participating homes will likely be produced.
- f. A custom t-shirt might also be created for the event but will most likely not be included in the ticket price.

13. S. Baker reminded the Committee of the upcoming 'Boo-kley Days' Trick or Treating event and the organizers' plans to bring a large group of local kids into the museum on Saturday, October 29th between noon and 3 pm and requested that the Museum be adequately staffed. S. Richardson, Dorothy Bennoune, M.C. Mueller and J. Tong all volunteered.

14. D. Carlson spoke upon the credit card fees incurred by the Committee since implementation of credit card sales in March of this year and stated his opinion that they are excessive. A thorough analysis and debate was requested for the next meeting and a written breakdown of fees vs. sales was promised to be ready in time.

15. S. Richardson reported Nov. 15th as the tentative date of the next Committee meeting and promised a confirmation email in the coming weeks. The Museum shift sign-up calendar was passed around.

16. K. Schmeling made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:33 pm. J. Tong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.