

BERKLEY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Present: S Richardson (Chairperson), J. Tong (Vice-Chairperson) , R. Patterson, K. Grimm, K. Schmeling, D. Callihan, S. Hansen, K. Scharra Eraqi, D. Bennoune, City Council Liaison S. Baker

Absent: J. Cauley, D. Carlson, W. Mathis, G. Rubright

1. The meeting was called to order by S. Richardson at 7:06 pm. S. Richardson called for amendments to the agenda. None were put forth. S. Hansen made a motion to approve the meeting's agenda. K. Schmeling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion. Berkley resident Clarence Black was present. Mr. Black stated he has been a Berkley resident for 14 years and is interested in history.

2. City Council Liaison Report: City Council Liaison Steve Baker reported on several matters discussed at the meetings of the Berkley City Council on January 9th and February 6th:

a. Berkley now has a full city council with Greg Patterson fulfilling the last seat.

b. Former council member Natalie Price was elected to Michigan's 5th House of Representatives district in the Michigan House of Representatives. She was elected in the 2022 Michigan House of Representatives election.

c. Little Lou's Hot Chicken has applied for their liquor license and to expand their outdoor patio area for service.

d. Provided a copy of the publication "Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism" along with additional educational material. Discussed neighboring communities that were discussed in the book. Berkley is mentioned as a possible "sundown town".

e. Brought up the recent Puppygram pet store that recently opened in Berkley without a business license. The city has halted their operations at this time.

3. S. Richardson called for possible corrections to the minutes for the December 13th, 2022 meeting of the Committee. Edits were recommended for bullet point #5C. Edit will be completed by D. Carlson. S. Hansen made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the December 13th, 2022 meeting of the Berkley Historical Committee. R. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with discussion.

4. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer W. Mathis was absent but provided the report to S. Hansen. The prior balance was \$15,502.71. Expenditures and income are enumerated below:

a. Expenditures:

Credit Card fees.....\$117.53

TOTAL - \$117.53

b. Income:

Berkley Library sales.....\$242.99

Misc. sales.....\$824.50

Credit card sales.....\$52.03

TOTAL - \$1,119.52

\$16,504.70 was reported as the month ending balance.

5. Curator's Report: J. Tong reported on several matters:

a. New LED overhead lights have been installed in the museum.

b. The city determined new electrical plugs need to be installed.

c. There will be an estimate to fix the front of the building.

d. A "Restaurants of Berkley" display will be created featuring past menus from former Berkley Restaurants.

e. The Pattengill phone booth has become a popular focal point in the museum.

f. The grain cradle is being repaired and will be hung from the ceiling.

6. Historical Markers: S. Richardson stated there is currently no ETA for the delivery of the Village Hall's State of Michigan historical marker. D. Callahan provided an update on the Pattengill School plaque project. A draft of the plaque language has been provided to the Committee for review.

7. 100th Anniversary Book: Updates were provided on the status of articles for the 100th Anniversary book. D. Callihan stated his article will focus on the history of Berkley schools up to 1949. J. Tong mentioned that we have received statements from the mayor and city manager to include in the publication.

8. Plans for 100th Anniversary: The city of Berkley approved fireworks for Friday, May 12th during Berkley Days. There is now a GoFundMe on the Berkley Days website to raise money for the fireworks which are projected to cost \$16,000. Local businesses will be asked to donate. The Berkley Days committee is also seeking grant money from larger local corporations. J. Tong proposed the Committee donate \$1,000 to the fireworks fund. S. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

9. House Plaques: R. Patterson presented a sample order form for the house plaques. Suggestions were made by S. Richardson to add "Office Use Only" on the form for the ordering section. K. Scharra-Eraqi suggested a photo sample be added to the form. R. Patterson will edit the form and present an updated version next meeting.

10. Time Capsule: J. Tong provided an update on ordering the time capsule. The time capsule sub-committee decided on the OJLF time capsule module that is available on Amazon for \$98.99 prior to taxes and shipping and handling costs. J. Tong also mentioned the plan to include a ground plaque where the time capsule would be buried. J. Tong stated the Committee would ask the community and city council members for suggestions on what to include in the time capsule. J. Tong made a motion to spend \$150.00 on the time capsule. S. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

11. Uniforms and T-shirts: D. Callihan provided an update on the uniform patch. The Committee discussed the difference between a 3-inch patch versus a 5-inch patch. S. Hansen provided a visual sample to compare the sizes. The Committee agreed on the 3-inch patch and to purchase 20 patches for an estimated \$250.00.

12. Berkley T-shirts: This agenda item was finalized last meeting as the Committee decided it was not moving forward with purchasing and selling Berkley themed t-shirts.

13. Credit Card Issue: Due to expensive credit card fees, S. Baker recommended the museum suspend the ability for visitors to purchase retail items through a credit card transaction. Venmo has been discussed as an alternative, but issues regarding a Venmo account and a phone number linked to it remain. J. Tong made a motion to suspend credit card transactions at the museum. S. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

14. Kit Homes Tour: J. Tong provided an update on the kit homes tour. Currently there are 8-10 houses planned for the tour. The tour will be Saturday, May 6th. The museum will be open that day for customers to pick up their tickets. Two-hour shifts will be needed for committee members to staff the museum and the houses on the tour.

15. Gifts to the Museum: J. Tong reported several recent donations.

a. Pattengill Telephone Booth donated by Judy Berry.

b. Photo album and articles from the Berkley Gazette donated by Brian Burke.

c. Berkley Front coasters and posters donated by Tracy Reddick.

d. *Sun Down Towns* book and display materials donated by Ms. Stacey Stevens

J. Tong made a motion to accept the gifts. S. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

16. Art Bash: The Committee plans to have a presence again at the Berkley Art Fest. An application has been submitted.

17. S. Richardson reported Tuesday, March 14th as the date of the next Committee meeting. The Museum shift sign-up calendar was passed around.

18. S. Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:33 PM. D. Callihan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.