

BERKLEY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024

Present: S. Richardson (Chairperson), J. Tong (Vice-Chairperson), D. Carlson (Secretary), M.C. Mueller, D. Callihan, S. Hansen, K. Grimm, G. Rubright, City Council Liaison S. Baker, K. Schmeling, D. Bennoune

Absent: R. Patterson, S. Patterson, J. Harlan (membership pending), W. Mathis (Treasurer/non-voting), K. Scharra-Eraqi,

1. The meeting was called to order by S. Richardson at 7:08 pm.
2. S. Richardson called for additions to the agenda. D. Carlson asked that discussion of the Berkley Historical Museum high school volunteer program be added. S. Richardson added the items to the agenda. S. Hansen made a motion to approve the meeting's agenda as amended. K. Schmeling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion. There were no citizen comments made.
3. **City Council Liaison Report:** City Council Liaison S. Baker reported on a number of issues discussed at the prior evening's City Council meeting, including:
 - a. Restructuring of Berkley's voting districts.
 - b. Preparations for the City's new budget cycle.
 - c. A possible second attempt to pass a new millage rate.
4. **Prior Meeting's Minutes:** S. Richardson recommended edits to bullet points #4g and #14 and called for other possible corrections to the minutes for the November 14th, 2023 meeting of the Committee. No additional corrections were recommended. D. Carlson stated his intention to make the requested corrections. J. Tong made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14th, 2023 meeting of the Berkley Historical Committee as amended. S. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** S. Hansen reported, in place of Treasurer W. Mathis, a prior balance of \$13,134.52. Expenditures and income are enumerated below:

a. Expenditures:	Print Stop.....	\$83.00
	<u>Web Domain.....</u>	<u>\$94.94</u>
	TOTAL	\$177.94
b. Income:	<u>Berkley Library/Museum Sales.....</u>	<u>\$514.20</u>
	TOTAL	\$514.20

\$13,470.78 was reported as the month ending balance.

6. **Curator's Report:** J. Tong reported on just a few matters.
- a. D. Callihan's latest issue of "Museum Corner" is now available. A project to bind the first twelve issues into a book is being considered.
 - b. A new Museum display featuring histories of Berkley churches is now up. The Old Radio Temple is the most prominently featured church. The exhibit will be altered periodically over the next year to showcase other churches.
 - c. There were no new donations to the Museum.
7. **Berkley Days:** J. Tong reported an upcoming payout to the Committee of \$2,500.00 for the 2023 event and also that the 2024 event will take place, but will be fenced and staffed with private security. The 2025 event is now in question. Also in question is the Committee's usage of the Community Center for its annual Berkley Days display. A request for outside space at the 2024 event is being considered. Many of these issues will be addressed at a meeting of the Berkley Days Board on Jan. 30th. J. Tong requested volunteers to attend with him. S. Richardson and D. Callihan volunteered.
8. **Pattengill School Historical Marker:** D. Callihan reported that the dedication date is still being considered and will be announced soon. Update to be given at a future meeting.

9. **“Berkley Home” plaques:** J. Tong reported that orders for home plaques are dwindling and the last order will be made around February 29th of this month.
10. **Holiday Lights:** S. Richardson solicited opinions of the 2023 event and the Committee’s continuing participation. J. Tong reported low attendance and S. Hansen reported a very late arriving crowd. K. Grimm cited the University of Michigan’s participation in the Big Ten Championship Game at the exact same time as the event as a likely explanation for the low attendance and that more typical attendance totals are likely at next year’s event.
11. **Museum Memberships:** D. Callihan reported on his Museum Membership program proposals and passed around a study of membership programs at other area museums. K. Grimm suggested merchandise discounts for dues-paying members, the issuance of a custom sticker or ID card indicating membership, and possible membership fee discounts for students and seniors. A number of other questions were posed for discussion at future meetings:
- a. Does the Committee need to seek approval from the city to administer such a program?
 - b. Is \$10 a good starting point for membership dues?
 - c. Shall we name the program “Berkley Historical Museum Membership” or something else?
 - d. Can we form a subcommittee for development of the program?
12. **Holdings Inventory Project:** J. Tong instructed Committee members on the proper execution of our Holdings Inventory project and encouraged Committee members to work on it if there’s down time during their Museum shifts. Boxes of inventory will be available in the Museum regularly.
13. **High School Volunteer Project:** D. Carlson reported on the development of a high school volunteer program to take place during Sunday Museum shifts over the coming year and requested the Committee’s approval to make it official. There was a general consensus to approve the program that will offer Berkley High students regular opportunities to execute Museum tasks alongside Committee volunteers on Sundays

from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. S. Baker recommended that a variety of tasks be offered and students be allowed to choose which appeal to them most.

14. Tabled for discussion at future meetings: Roseland Park Cemetery Tour, Smocks/Uniforms/Museum Patch, Gifts to the Museum.

15. The date of the next Committee meeting was announced: Tuesday, February 13th. The Museum shift sign-up calendar was passed around.

16. S. Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:18 pm. D. Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.