

BERKLEY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

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

Absent: K.Schmeling, D. Bennoune, A. Ozanich

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by S. Richardson at 7:07 pm.
2. **Agenda/Citizen Comments:** S. Richardson called for additions to the agenda. D. Callihan asked that discussion of the Museum Membership program be added. S. Hansen asked that discussion of her Committee video proposal be added. S. Richardson asked that discussion of Committee Treasurer also be added, and added that and all of the other requested items. S. Hansen made a motion that the meeting agenda be approved as amended. D. Callihan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion. There were no citizen comments made. J. Tong passed out copies of the latest issue of D. Callihan's "Museum Corner."
3. **City Council Liaison Report:** City Council Liaison Steve Baker reported on a number of items covered at the most recent meeting of City Council on Monday, January 6th.
 - a. An official proclamation acknowledging February as Black History month was made.
 - b. An official proclamation acknowledging the 40th anniversary of the Berkley Junior Women's Club was made.
 - c. There was discussion of the usages of a possible impending increase in Berkley Public Schools' per student allotment, but also acknowledgement that this scheduled increase might not materialize on account of possible state legislation.
 - d. The next meeting of the Berkley City Council will take place on the evening of Monday, January 27th.

4. Prior Meeting's Minutes: S. Richardson called for possible corrections to the minutes for the November 12th, 2024 meeting of the Committee and also recommended that Waneta Mathis' name be stricken. D. Carlson stated his intention to make the recommended edit and also to add a beginning balance to the Treasurer's Report. S. Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12th, 2024 meeting of the Berkley Historical Committee as amended. J. Tong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

5. Treasurer's Report: Interim Treasurer Kyle Grimm reported a prior balance of \$13,998.10. Expenditures and income are enumerated below:

a. Expenditures:	<u>Pine State Enterprises (Mugs).....</u>	<u>\$474.21</u>
	TOTAL	\$474.21

b. Income:	<u>Museum, Library & City Hall Sales + Donations....</u>	<u>\$322.50</u>
	TOTAL	\$322.50

\$13,846.39 was reported as the month ending balance.

6. New Treasurer: S. Hansen nominated K. Grimm to serve as the Committee's Treasurer. G. Rubright seconded the nomination. K. Grimm accepted the nomination. A voice vote was held and K. Grimm was elected unanimously.

7. Curator's Report: J. Tong reported that the new Our Lady of La Salette Catholic Church exhibit is now up and that it will be followed in succession over the next few months by exhibits featuring Cana Lutheran and the Berkley First United Methodist. D. Carlson stated his intention to begin building an archive of the Radio Temple's history and to open a dialogue with the leadership of the current congregation [St. Mary's Orthodox] with the goal of featuring their church building at 3212 Twelve Mile Rd in a future exhibit.

8. Berkley Days: J. Tong reported that the Berkley Days Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow to further discuss division of the proceeds from the 2024 event. A payout to

the Historical Committee is still likely. It was also reported that the event will likely take place in 2025, but with major changes and no carnival rides.

9. **Museum Hours:** J. Tong made a motion to discontinue Thursday night openings of the Museum until further notice. S. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

10. **Mug Sales Report:** J. Tong reported slower than usual but steady mug sales. Committee members were invited to take for themselves one of the latest design, if they haven't already.

11. **Museum Membership Program:** D. Callihan passed around mock-ups of a Berkley Historical Museum Membership promotional flyer and a sign-up form and presented details of membership dues and benefits. A lengthy debate on the proper naming of the program ensued with a general consensus that "Friends of the Berkley Historical Museum" works best for the program's purposes. S. Hansen made a motion that the organization of dues paying members of the Berkley Historical Museum and the organization's administrative body be collectively named "Friends of the Berkley Library." R. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion. S. Baker recommended review of the city charter for possible conflicts before moving forward.

12. **Gifts to the Museum:** J. Tong enumerated two recent gifts to the Museum.

- a. Richard Martens of Chesterfield Township donated 10 historical matchbooks from area businesses.
- b. Karen Williams of Grand Blanc donated a collection of four Berkley High School yearbooks from 1953 to 1961.

D. Carlson stated his intention to send "thank you" notes to the donors. J. Tong made a motion to accept the gifts. S. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

13. **Grant Proposal Discussion:** Both J. Tong and R. Patterson presented details of grant programs for which the Committee and Museum are likely eligible, with award values

ranging from \$2,500 to \$1 million. Recommendations of possible acquisitions and/or projects to be financed with grant funding were solicited. A renovation of the Village Hall facade, new archival materials, Museum rewiring and expansion, a new event staging kit and a new sound system were all suggested. S. Hansen moved that ongoing grant application work be continued in an official capacity by R. Patterson and J. Tong. G. Rubright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

14. Garage Sale: J. Tong proposed the idea of a Museum Garage Sale, or the Museum participating in a large community garage sale, with the goal of unloading some of our collection's less important holdings. The idea of a no-price free-will donation sale was floated. It was suggested that donation paperwork for specific items be examined before moving forward. J. Tong made a motion that the Committee undertake the planning of a future garage sale event. K. Grimm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

15. WXYZ 'Good Morning' Video: S. Hansen proposed that the Historical Committee produce a short 'Good Morning' video for submission to WXYZ-TV with the goal of having our video aired during the local station's recurring 'Good Morning' segment. There was a general interest in the concept among Committee members. S. Hansen made a motion that the Berkley Historical Committee produce a group 'Good Morning' video for submission to WXYZ-TV. G. Rubright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion. S. Hansen stated her intention to further develop the video-making plan and keep the Committee updated on progress and the shooting schedule.

16. Tabled Until Next Meeting / To Be Discussed Next Meeting: Museum Collection Policy discussion.

17. Good & Welfare: S. Hansen shared a message from former Committee Treasurer Waneta Mathis, thanking Committee members for visiting and for Christmas cards. K. Grimm announced that he and his wife are expecting a newborn son in June. D. Carlson reported all As in his first term at Wayne State University.

18. Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, February 11th at the Museum. The Museum shift sign-up calendar was passed around.

19. S. Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:27 pm. D. Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.