

BERKLEY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Written Thursday, September 9, 2025

Amended Thursday, October 16, 2025

Members Present: S. Richardson (Chair), J. Tong (Vice Chair/Curator), S. Hansen, M.C. Mueller, D. Callihan, G. Rubright, Staff Liaison R. Patterson, S. Patterson, K. Grimm, City Council Liaison S. Baker, J. Harlan

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

1. Call to Order: S. Richardson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04pm

2. Resignation: S. Richardson announced the resignation of Berkley Historical Committee Secretary D. Carlson.

3. Agenda/Citizen Comments: Judge Derek Meinicke discussed a planned memorial for the late Judge Wittenberg. He asked the committee to lend their name in support of the effort. Planned text: the Royal Oak Historical Society, in cooperation with the Berkley Historical Committee and with the support of the Wittenberg Family and 44th District Court Judges Derek Meinecke and Andrew Kowalkowski, wish to honor the late Judge Jamie Wittenberg, beloved jurist and Ruth Bader Ginsberg Champion of Justice Award winner.

Resolution R-01-25: Matter of supporting the planned memorial for Judge Wittenberg with a monetary donation to be determined.

S. Hansen moved to approve the resolution. D. Callihan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion. There were no citizen comments made.

D. Callihan moved to approve the agenda. S. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion. There were no citizen comments made.

4. City Council Liaison Report: City Council Liaison Steve Baker reported the following:

- a. The city council had approved a second woodchipper.
- b. Buildings were assessed for space utilization.
- c. City council was performing minor cleanup work on ordinances.

5. Prior Meeting's Minutes: J. Tong moved to approve the prior meeting's minutes. R. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

6. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kyle Grimm reported a prior balance of \$15,905.70. Expenditures and income are enumerated below:

- a. Expenditures: None

TOTAL \$0.00

b. Income: Museum income.....\$80.00

TOTAL \$80.00

\$15,985.70 was reported as the month ending balance.

Treasurer Kyle Grimm also reported that the Downtown Development Authority had asked for photos and artifacts from the Berkley Boneyard.

7. Curator's Report: J.Tong reported that he had purchased a professional display for \$100.00, and that the museum could potentially sell posters in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Museum Membership Program/Marketing: D. Callihan reported that R. Patterson had updated the membership flyer. He also said that he would pursue potential members via email, flyers, and social media.

9. 2025 Roseland Park Cemetery Tour: J. Tong reported that some tickets for the event have been sold, and that the event may be broadcast on the news. R. Patterson reported that the date listed for the event listed by the Downtown Development Authority was incorrect, but it has now been fixed.

10. Berkley Historical Museum Collections Policy: J. Tong passed around the Museum Collections Policy authored by A. Ozanich. S. Richardson raised concerns about its verification policy. D. Callihan suggested that it should only apply to valuable items. Further concerns were raised about the Cultural Provenance subsection, and R. Patterson suggested bringing in cultural experts in applicable situations. Ultimately, S. Richardson and J. Tong said they would each revise the collections policy and show the Berkley Historical Committee their revised versions.

11. Scavenger Hunt: J. Harlan reported that he had received permission from most relevant locations to use them as locations in the scavenger hunt, and he said he would follow up with the rest. The one notable outlier was the Rosemont Cemetery, which did not give permission. J. Harlan also confirmed that the scavenger hunt would begin in May of 2026.

12. Christmas/City of Berkley Ornaments: J. Tong reported that the Christmas ornaments have been selling well thus far.

13. Berkley Historical Museum Lecture Series: D. Callihan recommended starting the Berkley Historical Museum Lecture Series in February of 2026. J. Tong also said that an expert on toasters would be available to give lectures on the subject.

NEW BUSINESS

14. Gifts to the Museum: J. Tong reported one new gift to the museum: Lisa Zimmerman donated three old telephones of different models.

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

15. Museum Website: D. Callihan said that he will contact Tori Matheson to design the website.

16. Nomination of New Secretary: S. Henderson nominated J. Harlan to be the new secretary of the Berkley Historical Committee. M.C. Mueller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

17. Next Committee Meeting: The next Committee meeting will take place in the upstairs conference room of the Public Safety Building on Tuesday, October 14th at 7:00 pm. The Museum shift sign-up calendar was passed around.

18. Adjournment: S. Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:37 pm. R. Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

Minutes submitted by J. Harlan