

BERKLEY HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Present: S. Richardson (Chairperson), J. Tong (Vice-Chairperson), W. Mathis (Treasurer), G. Rubright, M.C. Mueller, D. Carlson, K. Schmeling, J. Cauley

Regular non-voting attendee Shirley Hansen was present. Steve Baker (City Council Liaison) was not present.

1.The meeting was called to order by S. Richardson at approximately 7:05pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by committee members. S. Richardson called for additions to the agenda. None were put forth. There was a short discussion of the notes from committee meetings in January and February. J. Tong noted the availability of these minutes online. The current meeting's agenda was approved by the committee. S. Richardson noted the absence of any citizen attendees and therefore passed over the "citizen comments" portion of the agenda.

2.Treasurer's Report ~ Treasurer W. Mathis reported income of \$215.00 and expenditures of \$2,041.75 since our last meeting, and a current account balance of \$10,429.76. Income came primarily from the sales of mugs, Christmas ornaments and books at the museum and library. Expenditures were reported as follows:

\$98.00 American Association for State and Local History

\$79.99 Amazon (Ink)

\$634.99 Amazon (Overhead Scanner)

\$441.25 Printing Costs

\$187.62 for Dell USB 3.0 Ultra HD/4k docker station

\$49.90 Lear Jump Drives

\$550.00 Stewart & Sons Concrete

3. Curator's Report ~ Vice-Chairperson J. Tong made numerous announcements:

a. The section of antique sidewalk from the corner of Brookline & Beverly has been installed on the City Hall/Museum grounds.

b. Historical "Berkley" & "Oxford" School cornerstones will soon be placed in their permanent positions on the City Hall/Museum grounds. Pertinent written information regarding the Berkley School will be etched upon a plaque to be affixed near the sidewalk, joining the already placed Oxford plaque.

c. New historical photos of Berkley Lanes are now on exhibit at the museum. City Council Liaison Steve Baker assisted in scanning them.

d. A new high-tech scanner has been purchased and is now in use at the museum.

e. No progress has yet been made on the implementation and utilization of "Past Perfect".

f.No gifts to the museum have been made in the past five months.

4.The committee discussed possible sales of old Berkley street signs that the city intends to donate to the museum for fundraising purposes over the coming year. D. Carlson suggested sales prices between \$40.00 and \$75.00. S. Hansen suggested sales prices between \$25.00 and \$60.00. G. Rubright suggested that the signs may be worth significantly more than Dale or Shirley's estimates. The committee agreed that further discussions of pricing will be necessary, and also that committee members ought to package and ship signs themselves, as opposed to spending committee money on packaging and shipping costs. J. Tong expressed his desire to use street sign sales income to finance an effort to establish historic site designation for the Old Berkley Fire Station that would include a state historical marker. Anticipated costs of \$2,500 were cited. The committee agreed to further discuss this proposal at a future meeting.

5. Election was held for committee officers. Chair: Sue Richardson; Vicechair/Curator: J Tong; Secretary D Carlson; Treasurer: W Mathis

6.The committee discussed possible terms and conditions under which the museum might reopen in light of the current Covid-19/Coronavirus epidemic. S. Hansen expressed her belief that reopening presently would be foolish and unsafe, and cited the average age and health considerations of fellow committee members. She also suggested that a "Grand Reopening" event would be a good idea when the reopening happens. J. Tong suggested that the museum's reopening should be no sooner than City Hall's reopening. G. Rubright agreed. J. Tong suggested that museum visits could temporarily take place by appointment. K. Schmeling, S. Hansen and G. Rubright all expressed their opposition to this idea. The committee reached a consensus and agreed to allow no museum visits until after City Hall reopens, and to further discuss reopening at our next meeting.

7.J. Tong reported that the artist who provided the artwork for the committee's last Christmas/Berkley themed mug will be providing new artwork for an upcoming mug design, and that these new mugs will be available for sale during the 2020 Christmas season. D. Carlson offered to look into developing a Facebook Marketplace sales portal for mug and ornament sales and stated his intent to present his findings at the committee's next meeting.

8.J. Tong expressed a desire for the committee to develop an instructional "Museum Volunteer Handbook" containing account passwords, gift acceptance forms, museum artifact files, etc. The committee agreed to further discuss the idea at future meetings.

9.S. Richardson and J. Tong noted that no museum volunteer sign-ups are necessary due to the pandemic. Also, it was determined by the committee that a bi-monthly meeting schedule will be implemented for the length of the Covid-19/Coronavirus epidemic. The committee's next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

10.D. Carlson made suggestions to, one, pay the artist providing artwork for Berkley/Christmas themed mugs, and two, to place his book about architectural sculptor Corrado Parducci in the museum for sale. J. Tong noted that both issues had been discussed at meetings that took place while D. Carlson was on committee sabbatical while in New Orleans, and that, one, the artist does not want compensation, and two, that the committee has given approval for museum based Parducci book sales. J. Tong noted successful history oriented pamphlet sales at the Royal Oak Historical museum and suggested that the committee might attempt to emulate these projects. It was agreed that the matter would be further discussed at future meetings.

11.D. Carlson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:59. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously without discussion.

Reply

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