

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
ST. CLAIR SHORES HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum
Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

PRESENT:

Chairperson	Mr. Gerald Sielagoski
Vice-Chairperson	Mr. John Cilluffo
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs. Kathleen Campbell
Members	Ms. Janet Horan
	Ms. Kay VanDeGraaf
City Librarian	Mrs. Rosemary Orlando
Assistant Library Director	Ms. Stephanie Fair

EXCUSED:

Council Liaison	Ms. Candice Rusie
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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sielagoski called the Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission to order at 7:00 PM

Moved by Horan, supported by Cilluffo, to excuse Rusie.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Horan, supported by VanDeGraaf, to adopt the agenda.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Campbell, supported by Horan, to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2022, Annual Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

A. Museum Activities

There were questions and discussion following a walk through of the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum prior to this Commission meeting.

VanDeGraaf questioned the house needing some major repairs and how the Commission can go about getting these repairs addressed. Orlando explained that the paperwork has been submitted several times. Campbell suggested that we possibly need to request assistance from Council Liaison Rusie. Orlando suggested that the repairs may possibly be line item repairs in the new budget. She will check with community development.

Plaques for both the benches have been completed. A thank you with pictures have been sent to the Welsh family. The plaque for the Blumline memorial bench was left in the bottom drawer of the dresser in the front bedroom and will be replaced when the weather is warmer.

B. Historical Society Report

Sielagoski asked whether Form 990 has been filed for FY2021. Form 990 for FY2022 will be filed online. It is not due until 3 months after the end of the fiscal year on March 31.

Bank account balances are:

\$25,219.37 Investment account

\$8,004.22 in 2nd investment account

\$5,421.06 in the checking account.

C. Genealogy Group Report

No report. The Local History Center is still closed. Sielagoski requested that references to the group remain on the SCSPL website.

D. Comments by Individual Commission Members

Horan wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Campbell shared information regarding the State of Michigan offering non-profit grants.

Regarding the egg decorating class offered, Sielagoski explained the spellings of "pysanki"; pysanky is the spelling in Ukrainian, pisanki is the spelling in Polish; so, it should not be spelled pysanki. Stephanie mentioned that they did check, and pysanki is an acceptable spelling.

E. Librarians Report

The SCSPL has received a 1.5 million dollar grant to update the building. The footprint will remain the same, but some areas or sections will be relocated within the building. The Jefferson door will be closed off. There will be a genealogy room on the main floor; but the Local History Center will remain on the lower level.

Social media has been gaining a good response for some of the SGFM programs: eight tickets have been sold to date for the Pysanki egg decorating class and there has been a positive response for the “Waffles on the Woodstove” event.

Orlando explained that, with Museum Curator Kim Parr’s resignation, the library staff will be temporarily assuming oversight and management of the future scheduled programs at the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum. The job description for the the curator will be reviewed and subsequently posted for the 15 hour a week part-time position.

Former Historical Commission member and SGFM curator, Madeline Reeder has donated \$10,000 to the Friends of the SCSPL.

The library intern is continuing to work on digitizing photos. Unfortunately, the public has not yet contributed any photos for digitizing. Assistant Library Director, Stephanie Fair is pursuing a grant for digitizing old newspapers. The intern has completed digitizing the photos that the library had left to add to the digital archive.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Historical Markers for Residences/Businesses Update:

Cilluffo contacted the homeowner, Karen Pelham, at 30114 Jefferson. The application information that Pelham has submitted is not adequate; so Cilluffo will contact her again.

The Flanagans, at 22623 Chapoton, have requested a marker dedication this Spring.

No additional applications have been received.

City Historical Marker Update:

Campbell attended a Centennial meeting at Lake Shore Church to explain about the city historical marker program. The congregation has multiple celebrations planned and wants to tie in the dedication with an event in September.

Discussion followed about the quantity of marker brochures needed and it was agreed that we should initially print 100.

Trinity and Eagle Pointe markers have been ordered and are currently in production.

Campbell explained that she spoke with the director of the Senior Center when placing the plaque on the Welsh bench. He has had several people ask him about the origin of the bench and had no reference for Jefferson Beach Amusement Park. Campbell would like to provide a set of Muskrat Tales for the Senior Center and asked Horan if she would deliver them. Horan agreed to make the delivery. It was also suggested that we provide a poster about the Historical Commission for posting at the Senior Center.

A discussion followed regarding the marker requested by John Caron about Lake St. Clair. Sielagoski suggested we keep the description focused on the commerce on the lake.

C&G Newspaper Article:

Cilluffo and Campbell both met with reporter, Alyssa Ochss, from the St. Clair Shores Sentinel. Ochss also contacted Orlando at the SCSPL. The article have not been published yet.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Venue for possible applicants for the Commission

Sielagoski suggested that we produce a poster to be displayed at the Senior Center asking for people to join the Historical Commission, using an enlarged version of our public service ad.

New Commission Member appointed

The City Council has appointed, Kathryn Gargalino, to the SCS Historical Commission.

Email sent to Historical Commission email address regarding Kramer Street

Ken and Chris Wills contacted Sielagoski asking if anyone knew what was located on the lake side of Kramer Street. He suggested they check the digital archives. Ken Wills was also looking for information about a painting of a sailboat, by the artist Russell Meeker that at one time was hanging at Blossom Heath. Orlando suggests we need more of a description to see if it is possibly stored at Blossom Heath.

Request for photos

Rusie has received a request from Chef Bobby for historical photos and artifacts to use in the bar at Blossom Heath. We will need more information regarding this request prior to determining next steps.

Corrections on Web page

Sielagoski indicated that the Historical Commission webpage on the SCSPL website has listed the Historical Commission secretary position as vacant. Orlando will correct this to indicate that Campbell is the secretary.

Pysanki egg donation

VanDeGraaf has 20-30 Pysanki decorated eggs she would like to donate. Orlando will check with the instructor.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Cilluffo, supported by Horan to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

The next regular meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the SCSPL in the MacHarg Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Campbell,
Secretary/Treasurer