

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

St. Clair Shores City Council Chambers
Tuesday, May 4, 2021

PRESENT:

Chairperson	Mr. Gerald Sielagoski
Vice-Chairperson	Mr. John Cilluffo
Treasurer	Ms. Kathleen Campbell
Members	Ms. Janet Horan
	Ms. Kay VanDeGraaf
City Librarian	Mrs. Rosemary Orlando

EXCUSED:

Secretary	Mr. Michael Leydet
Members	Ms. Theresa Bertolini
	Ms. Jeanne Srigley
Council Liaison	Ms. Candice Rusie

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sielagoski called the Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In Leydet's absence, Sielagoski appointed Campbell as acting secretary. Due to Covid-19 restrictions requiring social distancing, the meeting was held in the St. Clair Shores City Council chambers.

Moved by Cilluffo, supported by Campbell, to excuse Bertolini, Leydet, Rusie and Srigley from the Historical Commission meeting.

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 VanDeGraaf, supported by Horan, to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 Annual Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

Minutes signed by acting secretary Kathleen Campbell.

IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

A. Museum Activities

An artist group from the St. Clair Shores Palette Club has requested permission to use the museum grounds for a "Paint Out" event on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Orlando was pleased that the group contacted the library first. She will contact the group and is willing to oversee the event. The museum will not be open.

Moved by Horan, supported by Campbell, to grant the palette Club permission to use the grounds.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

Kay VanDeGraaf asked Orlando if the packet of information regarding the barn progress and finances had been located. Rosemary Orlando had located a folder, but it did not exclusively contain material on the barn. VanDeGraaf indicated that it was not the material for which she was looking, so Orlando will continue to investigate.

B. Historical Society Report

Discussion continued regarding the Barn funds and the status of the Society. Orlando suggested that we maintain efforts to save the 501(c)(3) Historical Society by contacting the inactive members from the newsletter list by letter in hopes of generating some interest. Campbell offered to help with the letter. There will also be a membership solicitation article published in the next library newsletter. Campbell and Orlando encouraged the Commission to reach out to people that they know who might be interested in joining the Historical Society.

C. Genealogy Group Report

The Genealogy group has had no recent meetings.

D. Comments by Individual Commission Members

Sielagoski wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

E. Librarians Report

Orlando asked the Commission to let her know if the Commission has information to include in the library newsletter and provide copy by the first of the month, e.g. May 1 for the June/July issue of the newsletter. Orlando suggested that the Commission could include an article about the historical marker program and asked whether the Historical Society application should remain in the newsletter.

Orlando asked about cashing the checks that have been received for membership in the Historical Society. After discussion, it was decided to cash the checks and provide the paid members with the newsletter. The application will be removed from the newsletter until the August/September issue of the newsletter, at which time, more information will be provided about the status of the Historical Society.

A last ditch effort to recruit members for the Historical Society will be attempted through the library newsletter and possibly by sending letters to former members. Campbell will work with Orlando on a letter to reach out to approximately 30 former members that are still receiving the library newsletter.

Campbell asked if there was a residency requirement to be a member of the Historical Society. There is no residency requirement; anyone can join the Historical Society.

Visitor Michelle Mormul suggested that the Historical Society webpage should reflect that applications for membership are no longer being accepted. After discussion, it was decided to try one last time before moving forward with dissolution of the Historical Society.

Orlando indicated that she has reserved the City Council chambers for the next scheduled Historical Commission meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Historical City Marker Update:

Campbell explained that ordering the marker for Van's Used Cars was in progress. The quote and the specifications for the stand have been sent and approved. The Commission is presently waiting to receive the hard copy proof for the marker from Pannier. Orlando will contact Campbell via email when the proof arrives at the library.

Campbell has taken photos of the location for marker placement and will send them to Orlando for the DPW installation.

No updates were available regarding the marker for Viviano Florist Shop other than they are currently in the process of gathering information and photos.

Orlando asked if the Commission has a list of potential buildings/sites for future markers, so that we could begin research. Campbell has a copy of a list compiled by Ann Powell. Campbell will provide that list at the next meeting.

Barn Fund Raising Update:

No activity to report.

Historical Tour Map Update:

Cilluffo had no activity to report.

Historical Markers for Residences/Businesses Update:

Cilluffo scheduled a sub-committee meeting prior to the Historical Commission meeting to authenticate the documentation for the marker at 22114 Avalon Street. It was agreed that the house marker could reflect c.1927 from the documentation provided; specifically, a voting record from 1927. Sielagoski asked whether the homeowners had a date in mind for the marker and if they had possibly obtained any deeds for the property. Cilluffo will check with the homeowners regarding deeds and whether they would like to have a dedication ceremony.

There have been no recent updates from Amanda and Jeff Sloan regarding a marker application for their new home. Amanda may have an interest in helping with the Historical Society. At her next contact (or possibly letter), we should pursue her interest.

No other marker applications have been received.

Muskrat Tales:

Orlando informed the commission that it is still not possible under the present Covid-19 restrictions to inventory the boxes of Muskrat Tales, but will contact the Commission when the area is accessible.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Trustees for the Commission:

Cilluffo asked about the possibly of creating a “trustee” position for people interested in helping the Historical Commission. Sielagoski indicated that this would require a change in the city charter and was the original reason that the Historical Society was formed. If interest increases in the future, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization could be formed as was in the past.

VII. AUDIENCE

Michelle Mormul was present. Ms. Mormul attended our last meeting.

Bob Knapp, a recent applicant for the Historical Commission vacancy, was also present at the meeting. Mr. Knapp didn't realize that the city had a Historical Commission, or he would have applied years ago. Bob has been married for 47 years and has 3 children and 14 grandchildren. He was a hospice chaplain for 16 years prior to retirement and is active at his church. Bob was born and raised in St. Clair Shores. He relocated for a while but returned and purchased his parents' home on Rosedale. He attended South Lake High School. Bob is interested in history and helping with research.

Sielagoski welcomed both visitors and explained the purpose and mission of the Historical Commission and shared details about some of our projects and activities.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Horan, supported by Cilluffo, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Campbell, Acting Recording Secretary