

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

St. Clair Shores City Council Chambers
Tuesday, June 1, 2021

PRESENT:

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| 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 |
| Council Liaison | Ms. Candice Rusie |

EXCUSED:

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| Secretary | Mr. Michael Leydet |
| Members | Ms. Jeanne Srigley |

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sielagoski called the Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. Sielagoski called for a moment of silence in honor of Theresa Bertolini who passed away on May 17, 2021.

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 Horan, supported by Cilluffo to excuse Leydet and Srigley from the Historical Commission meeting. A brief discussion followed regarding Jeanne Srigley's inability to attend meetings. Rusie explained that as long as the Historical Commission agrees, Jeanne Srigley's absences can continue to be excused. The Commission agreed that no action is required since there are currently vacancies on the Historical Commission.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Horan, supported by VanDeGraaf, to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021, Regular 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

The museum grounds will be used by the Library for the Summer Reading Program. Chairperson Sielagoski received an inquiry from Senior Activities Center Coordinator, Matthew Hubinsky, regarding a group visit to the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum as part of the "Explore the Shores" series. A discussion followed regarding the possibility of group visits to the museum. Orlando will contact Mr. Hubinsky from the Senior Center for more information.

B. Historical Society Report

The ongoing discussion continued regarding future plans for the Historical Society. Ms. Rusie suggested using City resources wherever possible, e.g. the SCS city website and Facebook page. Ms. Rusie will meet with Mayor Walby and offer suggestions as the Mayor is very interested in promoting the history of our community. Sielagoski commented that there still needs to be a commitment from someone to handle the responses from the community. He also suggested that a general informational meeting could possibly be planned to assess interest. Orlando and Campbell will continue drafting a letter to solicit interest and gain support from the community.

Sielagoski will check on the status of the gmail account that was previously used by the Historical Society.

C. Genealogy Group Report

The Genealogy group has not held any recent meetings.

D. Comments by Individual Commission Members

Horan wished everyone a Happy Father's Day.

VanDeGraaf indicated that she is still hoping that the barn information from former curator, Caitlin Donnelly, can be located and returned. Orlando will continue to pursue efforts to retrieve the information. VanDeGraaf will be meeting with Theresa Bertolini's family to retrieve any information that Ms. Bertolini may have had.

Rusie is recovering from COVID and is finally feeling better. She has regained her sense of taste and smell. Her mother was hospitalized with COVID and her father had COVID but was able to remain at home. Rusie's fiancé, Brad has remained healthy.

Campbell mentioned that the City of St. Clair Shores has a Mortgage/Rent/Utility Assistance Program. Any resident may apply for assistance with up to three months of payments. Additional information is on the City website.

Sielagoski reported that his office is calling the next progression for remote working “the New Era of Agility” with approximately 70% working remote and 30% working in office. The office space will no longer have assigned desks and designated work areas, but rather an open work area. Discussion followed about the future of work from home.

E. Librarians Report

Orlando reported that the Library is now on Summer Hours and is closed on Saturdays until Labor Day. The next newsletter to be published will be for August/September and Orlando requested the Historical Commission to submit any content that we want to have included.

The Library is working on the Summer Reading Club; Adult and Youth Services are on Wednesdays and the younger children programs are on Thursdays. The library still has curbside pick-up and drop off. Materials are still on a 24 hour hold for quarantine. The library has continued to follow the City mandates. Daily attendance is increasing but still primarily operating in a “grab and go” mode. The Friends Book Sale will be held on the first Saturday in August. The Friends are not currently accepting book donations.

Orlando indicated that she has scheduled the next Historical Commission meeting to be held in the City Council chambers.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Historical Markers for Residences/Businesses Update

It was agreed that the Avalon house is accurately dated at 1927. Cilluffo reported that library archivist, Heidi Christein, photographed the substantiating records for the Avalon Marker. As soon as the homeowner’s check clears, the marker will be ordered and arrangements discussed for the dedication. There are no other new applicants.

Historical Commission Applicants Update

There has been no information regarding the application of Robert Knapp for the Historical Commission vacancy. Mr. Knapp has also applied to be a member of the Cultural Committee. Ms. Rusie will check on the status. Chairperson Sielagoski commented that he is usually invited to sit in on the interview but has not heard any news regarding Mr. Knapp’s application.

City Historical Marker Update:

Campbell explained that the historical marker for Van’s Used Cars has been ordered and we are currently waiting for information on delivery. Orlando has pictures for the DPW

identifying the location for its installation. Campbell also asked about the landscaping around the Van's Used Cars historical marker. Rusie will check to see if the Beautification Commission can help with the landscaping. A marker dedication ceremony is no longer under any restrictions.

Campbell provided a list that had been prepared by Ann Powell regarding additional markers to be considered. The Historical Commission will use the list as a starting point to initiate research for the next marker. St. Gertrude Cemetery was mentioned as a candidate; however, there have been issues with its upkeep since it is owned and managed by the Archdiocese of Detroit. Ms. Rusie suggested considering a marker at Nine Mile and Jefferson.

Ms. Rusie mentioned that the Department of Parks and Recreation is planning an anniversary celebration and that it might be an opportunity for collaboration between the Historical Commission and them. Research on the history of the city parks was attempted a few years ago, but there was some difficulty in getting histories, e.g. Fresard Park consists of two benches and a trash can - a "pocket park". Rusie suggested that we consider honoring the parks with some kind of plaque. Sielagoski is very interested in pursuing this idea as an additional project.

City marker brochures for possible inclusion on the city website and available for distribution will be investigated.

Barn Fund Raising Update:

Ms. Rusie indicated that the City has received \$23,000,000 in federal funds that have not been completely allocated. Projects have been discussed and Rusie thinks that the mayor might possibly be interested in allocation of some of these funds to help with the barn project. The Barn Fund currently has approximately \$25,000 and it is anticipated that it may need an additional \$75,000 to complete the project. Rusie will pursue putting the barn on the agenda as a proposal for receiving funds.

A Library Kid's Room is another possible candidate for the federal funds.

Historical Tour Map Update:

Cilluffo had no activity to report.

Muskrat Tales

No update on plans to inventory current quantities of Muskrat Tales at the library.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Reimbursement Form

There was discussion regarding adding a requirement to provide a W-9 form. Campbell will provide a pdf of finalized reimbursement form.

Moved by Horan to approve with the addition of the W-9 information, seconded by VanDeGraaf
Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

Photo Request

Chairperson Sielagoski received a request from the Senior Activities Center to use two photographs to be placed on each side of the new mural in the lobby. The photos will honor the fire and police departments. Sielagoski granted permission.

Erin Township Records Project

Sielagoski received a request from the Roseville Public Library regarding a grant to digitize the microfilm records of Erin Township Records Project. The Erin Township Records Project was started in the mid-1990s by the Roseville Historical & Genealogical Society, the East Detroit Historical Society, the Fraser Historical Commission, the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission, and the St. Clair Shores Historical Society with the objective of indexing the records of Erin Township and storing them on microfilm. The request was for a letter from each organization to grant permission to digitize the records, which would be included in the grant proposal. Sielagoski provided a letter from the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission granting permission to digitize the records.

Commission Roster

A New Commission Roster was provided but there are errors in expiration dates which need to be corrected.

July Meeting

The Historical Commission agreed to hold the July meeting on July 13, instead of on July 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

VII. AUDIENCE

Ms. Michelle Mormul joined us again. She attended our last meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Horan, supported by Cilluffo, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.
Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Campbell,
Acting Recording Secretary