

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

St. Clair Shores City Council Chambers
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

PRESENT:

Chairperson	Mr. Gerald Sielagoski
Vice-Chair	Mr. John Cilluffo
Secretary	Mr. Michael Leydet
Treasurer	Ms. Kathleen Campbell
Members	Ms. Janet Horan
	Ms. Kay Van De Graaf
City Librarian	Mrs. Rosemary Orlando

EXCUSED:

Members	Ms. Jeanne Srigley
City Liaison	Ms. Candice Rusie

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Moved by Campbell, supported by Horan to excuse Jeanne Srigley and Candice Rusie absence from the meeting.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion to accept the agenda by Horan supported by VanDeGraaf to adopt the agenda

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes by Campbell and supported by Horan to approve

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

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Minutes signed by Secretary Mike Leydet.

IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

A. Museum Activities

Orlando reported that the Yardener's group are conducting a paint out on the museum grounds Wed July 13th. On Thursday July 14th at night the Yardener's are holding a Macomb county extension group meeting on the museum grounds.

In August a group from the Senior Center will be coming to tour the museum. The next newsletter will contain an announcement that interested parties can call into the library for scheduled tours of the museum. There are several docents available that can provide these tours.

Every Thursday afternoon we have our Maker Thursday meetings. The Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Maker project group will meet on the museum ground on Thursdays.

Library has been open since last June with some restrictions.

Summer reading club will meet every Wednesday afternoon at Blossom Heath Park.

Large groups such as the Reading library are still virtual and will be slowly considering bring this back into the library.

Orlando will be posting the opening for the curator position within the next couple weeks.

B. Historical Society Report

Gmail account is outdated we will need to create a new historical Society Gmail. As a Historical Society member Campbell will seek to replicate the old one if still available or create a new similar Gmail account for the Society.

A new letter to Society members was presented by Campbell along with a mock-up of a new membership card. The Commission members can provide editorial feedback via email to Campbell prior to the next commission meeting. Orlando suggested that the society members could contact the library for a list of dates for future Historical Society meetings. There is a need to rebuild the base and gain new leadership for the Society. Campbell suggested that we start with canvassing prior members as a first step to increase Society membership and participation and then build from there. Publishing Society membership opportunities could be encouraged by reaching out through the Library newsletter.

Campbell stated that we have a minimal Society presence on the internet.

Orlando reported that Historical Society member checks were given to Janet for deposit. These checks were recently received from people that have signed up as members.

Further discussions about the Society dues included information about the benefactor donation of \$100 being a perpetual membership and the yearly membership being \$15 and less for children and seniors. Letters for membership cards need to be mailed out as soon as it has been approved.

VanDeGraaf will provide stamps to Horan so she can send out the Historical Society Alumni letters.

Orlando provided an old library list of society members that can be used to create a new list from to support a more updated list for membership mailings. This list will need to be reviewed and updated.

General discussion of society member meetings include how frequently they should meet, what time of the day and locations for meetings. No decisions were made lacking a leader for the Historical Society at this time.

Horan asked if Zoom meetings were possible for the society. Orlando stated that they are allowed for the 501C3 Society meetings but not for city or commission meetings. This may be an option under the Zoom license under the library, but we will need a Society member to run the meeting.

Orlando reported: 2020 taxes were filed with a 990N form. The IRS informed the society that the 2019 taxes were not filed. Taxes for 2019 could not be filed through the IRS site electronically. There was a need to get a tax preparer from the IRS site, to file the 2019 taxes within the 10-day due date. Orlando covered the cost of this, to expedite the process and Horan was asked to pay for filing the 2019 taxes from the Society bank account. The Library possess files for these tax filings and Orlando will provide copies to the Historical Commission treasurer Campbell as requested. Gilbert's bill has been received and paid. There is a need to get more checks for the society. Leydet state that Bank of America has free checks if you go through their web app and order them. The search function on the web app. is the easiest way to find the check ordering app.

C. Genealogy Group Report

Sielagoski stated that there were no recent meetings. Orlando reported that the Mayor supports getting them back on track with active meetings possibly on their usual cadence of every 4th Thursday of each month as soon as possible. Time and place to be determined.

D. Comments by Individual Commission Members

Jeanne Srigley will be 100 this year on Dec 12th, 2021, and VanDeGraaf suggested that some of the members should consider meeting with her at her new home at 310 Cranberry Park 3rd floor. VanDeGraaf is going to send a card to her and will arrange some visits for Commission members if they are interested.

Sielagoski welcomed Leydet back from his absence.

Horan wished anyone with a birthday “Happy Birthday” lacking any near-term holidays. VanDeGraaf has the Barn project documents and other documents that Teresa Bertolini was working on and will go through these to bring the latest ones to the Historical Commission.

Sielagoski mentioned that Kaufman Park set up a Little Free library and it seems to have been a big hit with those using the park.

Discussion about creation of a E presents on the library web site and there is a need to recruit new Society members is ongoing.

E. Librarians Report

Rosemary we have receive 3 checks totally \$255 as a memorial for Teresa Bertolini. The checks were made out to the commission and have been deposited into the Commissions Barn fund, but the funds can be used for any purpose that the commission sees fit.

Thankyou letters have been sent by the commission thanking the doners.

The next meeting for the Historical Commission will be held on August 3rd and will be in the Library possibly in the MacHarg meeting room.

Orlando asked if a subcommittee meeting meets can a copy of any meeting minutes be sent to Orlando for her records.

Americans for the Arts Cool Cities initiative contacted Orlando to support installations for two additional Little Free Libraries in the City of St. Clair Shores. They are proposing that SCS library does the installations and reregisters them online to be considered part of the system of Little Free Libraries.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Historical Markers for Residences/Businesses Update:

Avalon marker dedication was to take place at 6:00PM on July 27, at the home located at 22114 Avalon St. Clair Shores. Kathy Campbell provided a letter for the owners to send out for invitations to the dedication. Sielagoski was asked for the details about the Avalon house from Cilluffo for him to prepare a dedication presentation of the plaque.

Note:

New information was provided by Cilluffo on July 23, that the dedication for this Tuesday July 27 was canceled. The homeowner will be picking up the plaque at the library on Tuesday evening. Rusie was informed by Cilluffo to contact mayor and council about the cancellation

The Vans marker is in place, and he footed the bill for the landscaping around the marker. Campbell will meet with Maurice VanCollie to identify when he is available for his marker dedication ceremony. Cilluffo suggested Saturday Aug 21 or Aug 28 at around 11:00 AM. Maurice has provided some feedback that he may have to postpone until September.

We will be reaching out to Viviano Flower Shop in the fall for preparation of the new City Marker.

Barn Fund Raising Update:

City Council has requested plans to identify what the current Historical Commission's plans are for the barn project. The city is considering using money from the American Rescue funds (ARF) to possibly help with the building of the new barn. Candice Rusie wanted the commission to know that the barn has been added to the consideration for ARF funding. The plan from 2016 is going to be re assessed for consideration by the city administration. Partners in Architecture was one of the firms that provided some information on the structure of what the barn needed to be. VanDeGraaf is going to drop off any recent documents for the Barn plans old 24' X 30' vs. new 18' x 28' for Orlando's review and presenting to the city administration.

The city administration asked for a point of contact. VanDeGraaf has agreed to be point of contact for the city and to provide the latest information to Orlando for the initial proposal to the City administration.

We also discussed Mr. Lewis as a potential volunteer for the barn project once we review the latest barn sizes and options.

Historical Tour Map Update:

Cilluffo had no activity to report.

Muskrat Tales

No update on the inventory of Muskrat Tales.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VanDeGraaf mentioned that Teresa Bertolini had a beautiful Organ that she intended to donate to the Selinsky-Green House museum. We need to consider that this donation may be available as a replacement for the existing organ in the museum.

Commission Roster

New Commission Roster was provided for review and the corrections were noted.

August Meeting

The August meeting will be held on August 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library final location of the meeting is TBD.

VII. AUDIENCE

Amanda Mclaughlin joined us at the meeting. Amanda formerly received a Historic Home marker for her home at 20521 E. 11 Mile Rd. Amanda informed commission that she sold her home and that she and her partner Jeff Sloan purchased another historical home in St. Clair Shores and may be looking at applying for another historical marker. She also expressed some interest in possibly joining the Historical Society or possibly applying for a position on the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Horan and seconded by Cilluffo to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Leydet,
Recording Secretary