

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

**MacHarg Room
Tuesday, September 7, 2021**

PRESENT:

Chairperson	Mr. Gerald Sielagoski
Vice-Chair	Mr. John Cilluffo
Secretary	Mr. Michael Leydet
Members	Ms. Janet Horan
	Ms. Kay VanDeGraaf
City Librarian	Mrs. Rosemary Orlando

EXCUSED:

Members	Ms. Jeanne Srigley
City Liaison	Ms. Candice Rusie
Treasurer	Ms. Kathleen Campbell

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sielagoski called the Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission to order at 6:55 PM

Moved by VanDeGraaf, supported by Horan to excuse Jeanne Srigley, Candice Rusie and Kathleen Campbell as absent from the 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 Cilluffo, to approve the minutes of the Aug 3, 2021 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

Minutes will be signed by Secretary Michael Leydet at the next regularly scheduled meeting for the September.

IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

A. Museum Activities

The Library newsletter is now advertising tours of the museum and we are getting results of increased traffic in the Museum. The following groups came through this last August resulting from the newsletter adds. The tours were supported by the museum docent volunteers.

The increased Museum tours included the following:

- Yardeners Group, garden tour Aug 7
- Explore the Shores group, museum tour Aug 14
- SCS Residents, museum tour Aug 16

Other activities supported on the museum ground include the following:

- Pallett Paint club, conducted a paint-out
- Summer Adult reading Club
- 7th grade tour
- First step for tots meeting on Thursday mornings
- Cranberry Park (Senior Center) tour

Orlando has filled the opening for the curator position after receiving 28 applicants. The big reveal of who the new curator will be is going to be announced within the next couple of weeks.

Orlando reported that there are some additional repairs needed for the museum including additional repairs to the stairs with new repairs to the gutters and fencing on the grounds.

In the next annual budget, the curators' position and associated work that is supported by the curator will come out of the general fund as decided by the city, and not out of the library's budget as it previously did.

B. Historical Society Report

No update currently.

C. Genealogy Group Report

Sielagowski stated that there were no updates for the Genealogy Group. Orlando reported that she doesn't expect any meetings for this group until the beginning of next year 2022.

D. Comments by Individual Commission Members

VanDeGraaf briefly discussed the sale of the items in Theresa Bertolini's Estate and reported that the antique Organ was still available for the Historical Commission's consideration if we wanted it for the Museum. She also expressed that we needed to make this decision immediately. After additional discussion about its age appropriateness for

the Museum (confirmed by VanDeGraaf), Size and Condition the commission decided that it would accept the donation to the Museum with no conditions. Orlando brought up the size as a possible issue getting it into the doorway of the Selinsky-Green farmhouse. She will confirm the size of the entrance to support this effort in obtaining and moving it into the museum.

Moved by VanDeGraaf supported by Horan, to accept the donation of the discussed period correct organ for the Museum with no restriction on what we can do with it after receiving it.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

Sielagoski is participating on a committee addressing the restoration of the pipe organ at his church. This participation may be helpful to the Historical Commission with contacts and knowledge regarding antique organs, and is an opportunity for us to leverage this information for the restoration of Teresa's organ donation to its working condition.

Sielagoski asked that we include Jean Srigley on any Historical Commission emails.

Cilluffo brought up a request from Patti Heidt Austin the VP of Finance from the Little Blue Book to participate in provide historical content for a SCS bi-monthly magazine which will start publication in the beginning of 2022. The magazine will be delivered to various homes in SCS and at different drop spots throughout the city. This could include content provided by the Historical Commission such as photographs and or written histories of St. Clair Shores. We decided to invite a representative from The Little Blue Book to come to the next meeting to present their interests.

E. Librarians Report

Fall hours include opening the Library on Saturdays.

Due to building issue the Local History Center is closed to the public to address the needed repairs. Future meetings downstairs are postponed or rescheduled for other venues until further notice.

Orlando informed the commission that there are no current plans to have speakers for Genealogy group. Most group zoom meetings have not had high attendance during recent meetings. Orlando doesn't anticipate group meeting to take place this fall.

Orlando shared with us that Jeanne Srigley attended a library tour from the Cranberry Park. Jeanne mentioned to Orlando that she was an avid crossword puzzler and made it known that she does accept and appreciates crossword book donations

Ancestry.com has a new option accessible on their website called Freedmen bureau records, which is under new collections in Ancestry.com. This electronic archive containing 3.5 million records documenting the lives of free black people's histories

during the pre and post reconstruction period between 1846 – 1878. This is available for free to anyone until the end of the year.

The Library Newsletter will be issued as single issues this October. The months of November and December will be a combined issue. Orlando asked if there is any interest in providing content for these newsletters, possibly including something about the new organ in the upcoming January library newsletter. Orlando also mentioned that we could advertise in the new letter or on the library's Facebook page if there are any Historical Commission needs such as petitioning for new members or helping with the barn fund activities.

VanDeGraaf asked the docents were managed or funded by the Library. Orlando said the docents were Museum groupies/volunteers and were not associated directly to the library. Part of the new museum curator's responsibilities may include recruitment and training of new docents.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Historical Markers for Residences/Businesses Update:

No update currently on new markers. VanDeGraaf asked if the markers belong to the house or the owners when a property is sold. Cilluffo suggested that if the house is sold and is not being demolished the marker would generally stay with the home.

Historical City Marker Update:

The dedication of the City Historical Marker for Van's Used Cars will be held September 25th at 11:00.

Barn Fund Raising Update:

No update

Historical Tour Map Update:

Cilluffo stated that he was going to reach out Campbell to begin sub-committee meetings sometime in October. We also discussed the possibility reserving some time during Historical Commission meetings to set aside 30 minutes to 1 hour after the meeting to conduct subcommittee meeting working sessions.

Muskrat Tales

Campbell and Orlando have not been able to meet to go through the Muskrat Tales inventory yet. The intent is the bring the inventory to the Commission for eventual disposition. Sielagoski mentioned that Ann created an index of the Muskrat tales in 2013 that we may be able to leverage for these inventories.

Leydet suggested that we scan or electronically capture and archive the Muskrat Tales publications to preserve the ones that are in print only. Sielagoski asked that we consider

also creating new Muskrat Tales moving forward and be careful over leveraging the old content. He also said digital archiving could be a 2022 goal to digitize the full volume of the existing Muskrat Tails publications.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Historical Commission Goals and Achievements

Sielagoski asked for input from the commission members to help support documentation of the achievements over the last year and to develop plans for future Historical Commission goals for 2022. He will send out a rough draft of this year's goals and achievements electronically for additional suggestions and comments. He also suggested that we should possibly challenge past goals and priorities on this list so can set achievable goals for the commission in the coming year.

VII. AUDIENCE

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Horan, supported by Cilluffo, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

The next meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission will be held on October 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the SCSPL in the MacHarg Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Leydet,
Recording Secretary