

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

**MacHarg Room  
Tuesday, October 5, 2021**

**PRESENT:**

Chairperson	Mr. Gerald Sielagoski
Vice-Chair	Mr. John Cilluffo
Secretary	Mr. Michael Leydet
Treasurer	Ms. Kathleen Campbell
Member	Ms. Janet Horan
City Librarian	Mrs. Rosemary Orlando
Museum Curator	Ms. Kim Parr

**EXCUSED:**

Council Liaison	Ms. Candice Rusie
Member	Ms. Kay VanDeGraaf

**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 Campbell, supported by Horan to excuse VanDeGraaf and Rusie's absence from the meeting.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

**II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Horan, supported by Leydet, to approve the minutes of the Sept 7, 2021 Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission with amendments.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

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

#### IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

##### A. Museum Activities

Sielagoski and Orlando welcomed the new Selinsky-Green Farm House Museum Curator, Ms. Kim Parr. Ms. Parr shared her excitement regarding the new position along with details of her past experience as the Director of the Crocker House Museum for Macomb County.

Orlando mentioned that Parr's first priorities would be working on an assessment of Museum needs and putting a plan in place for the exterior of the building as well as recruiting and training new docents.

Campbell asked if this was the first time that the City was asking for a list of Museum needs. Orlando said that it was, but this was related to how the Museum was funded and managed in the past. Additional discussions were held regarding past funding methods for the Museum.

Orlando still oversees the Museum budget, which is now separate from the Library. There is \$4,600 allocated for Museum maintenance and repairs. The city has requested a 5-year plan and budget for the Museum.

Sielagoski stated that the Historical Commission has the responsibility to oversee the maintenance, preservation and operation of the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum as stated in the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission mission statement in the Annual Report.

Orlando has contacted approximately 7 docents to meet at the Museum on October 13th at 1:00PM in order to assess their comfort level with opening up the Museum to more public activities considering the current COVID 19 pandemic environment.

Sielagoski asked Orlando for a list of the existing docents. He also asked for Parr's new email address. Her new email address was provided. It is: [parrk@libcoop.net](mailto:parrk@libcoop.net)

Orlando and Parr mentioned that the current Museum organ is operational but has a loose foot pedal and some missing pull knobs. Parr asked if we knew what the provenance was for the current organ in the Museum. Orlando indicated that this information should be accessible on the museum's computer. Once this computer is set up and working, Parr will investigate and determine who donated the current organ and review any accession information that exists.

Sielagoski discussed the donation of Bertolini's organ to the museum and indicated that it is a Burdett Organ.

B. Historical Society Report

No updates to report

C. Genealogy Group Report

No updates to report

D. Comments by Individual Commission Members

Horan wished the Historical Commission “Happy Halloween”.

Sielagoski discussed a conversation that he had at Jeanne Srigley’s memorial service regarding Jeanne’s wishes for donations to be made to the Library or Historical Commission. He conveyed the fact that the Historical Society of St. Clair Shores is still a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is in the process of acquiring a new leadership team. He further stated that the finances are being managed by the former vice-president of the organization and that the Historical Society continues to accept donations and disburse funds to meet expenses, as needed. Orlando mentioned that Jeanne Srigley’s obituary mentioned that donations should be made to the Historical Commission.

Orlando received an email from one of Jeanne Srigley’s nieces inquiring about how to make a donation and had also asked if she could obtain a transcript of the oral history interview of Srigley that was conducted by the Historical Commission. She also saw a Metromode article about preservation efforts in the City of St. Clair Shores and was aware of Jeanne’s previously provided oral history. Campbell and Sielagoski have copies which will be sent to Srigley’s family.

Sielagoski was at the St Hyacinth Church festival in Detroit and met with Brianne Turczynski. Turczynski had interviewed several Historical Commission members including Sielagoski, Bertolini and Srigley about historical preservation efforts in St. Clair Shores for a Metromode digital magazine article. Turczynski had a table at the craft show and was promoting/selling her book entitled, “Detroit’s Lost Poletown” The Little Neighborhood That Touched a Nation. Ms. Turczynski provided a flash drive containing Jeanne’s interview which Sielagoski was able to give to Srigley’s son at her memorial service. Sielagoski also informed the Historical Commission that Jeanne Srigley’s recent passing on September 26<sup>th</sup>, was less than three months away from her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He asked the Commission members for a moment of Silence to reflect on Jeanne’s many contributions to the Historical Commission as a member and the community of St. Clair Shores. Sielagoski also recounted her remarkable recall of the history of St. Clair Shores from her memories when she first came to St. Clair Shores in 1928 at the age of 6 years old.

Cilluffo mentioned that Anna Swartz, the editor from the Little Blue Book, was waiting outside the meeting room. Sielagoski suggested introducing her during the Old Business portion of the agenda.

E. Librarians Report

Orlando indicated that The Friends of the Library are not having a Fall book sale this year due to health issues faced by some of the volunteers, continued concerns over COVID 19 and because the group hasn't been accepting book donations for some time.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Historical Markers for Residences/Businesses Update:

No new marker applications or updates to report.

B. Historical City Marker Update:

The successful dedication of the City Historical Marker for Van's Used Cars was held September 25th at 11:00 a.m. Sielagoski provided an eloquent marker dedication about Van and his life of service to his country and community, which culminated in a rousing rendition of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow". Van greatly appreciated the dedication ceremony, Campbell's leadership in this initiative and the support provided by the Commission members in recognizing him and his historical used car dealership.

Campbell has reached out to Viviano's Flower Shop owners in an effort to obtain information for the City Marker. Campbell has asked Heidi Christein, the library archivist, for images of the flower shop green house from her previous historical article in the St. Clair Shores Sentinel.

Sielagoski mentioned that we should try to produce 2-3 Historical City Markers each year. The Mayor is encouraging us to do more if possible. Campbell and others also mentioned following list of other possible markers for consideration:

St. Gertrude Cemetery at 12 Mile road and Greater Mack  
St. Felicity  
Bruce Post VFW hall on Jefferson  
Gilbert's Lounge  
Gordie Howe Hockeyland  
Bennett's Market

Campbell and Sielagoski asked the commission to consider initiating research efforts for at least two additional markers, as soon as possible, so that we can meet our goals for next year.

C. Annual Report for 2020/2021

Sielagoski sent Historical Commission Annual Report for 2020/2021 including goals and accomplishments to the Commission members for their review and feedback. He only received a response from Horan stating that she agreed with the existing content and had no proposed modifications. Based on not having received additional responses from the

Commission members, Sielagoski has concluded that the Commission accepts the list of goals for 2021 as written, without changes.

D. Barn Fund Raising Update:

No updates to report.

E. Historical Tour Map Update:

Campbell mentioned that she had not yet organized a sub-committee meeting for the Historical Tour Map because of the amount of preparation needed to support the Van's Used Car City Historical Marker project.

F. Muskrat Tales

Orlando, Campbell and Sielagoski have not been able to meet to inventory the Muskrat Tales in storage at the library yet.

G. Shores Magazine

Cilluffo introduced Anna Swartz, editor of the new publication "The Shores" the publisher of "The Little Blue Book", little Blue Book / Towar Productions. Ms. Swartz presented her thoughts on this new bi-monthly publication focusing specifically on the city of St. Clair Shores. The first issue will be launched March/April of 2022. Swartz suggested various ways the Historical Society might contribute to the one page of St. Clair Shores related historical content, 6 times each year. She also suggested how the Historical Commission might benefit by being provided valuable advertisements (add), Public Service Announcements (PSA), articles, photo's etc.

The following information was provided verbally and in a written proposal presented to the Commission by Ms. Swartz and is copied below:

Ideas for the historical page in the magazine

- 1) Historical photo with a brief article (like those archived on the library website)
- 2) Then and Now: One historic photo and one current photo of the same building/park/street, etc. with a short article or long caption. If the commission does not have a current photo the Shores staff can take a photo (which can be added to the Historical Commissions archives). The shores a staff can also contribute to the article/caption by contacting the current owner/appropriate person for a quote.
- 3) One-page articles about a person or place that are not yet written – ones that could be included in the magazine and in the commission's archives. Editor Anna Swartz would write the article, and the commission would provide story leads and any historic photographs.

What can the Shores do for the Historical Commission?

Any time the commission provides photos and/or articles for the magazine: the commission would be entitled to something in exchange, such as:

- 1) A free ad/PSA in the magazine & in the SCS little Blue Book.
- 2) Articles related to the Historical Commissions (such as an interview with the chairperson), the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum, locations of SCS Historical Markers, the local History Center and more. These articles could also be placed in the Historical Commission's archives. Editor Anna Swartz, an experienced writer, would conduct necessary interviews and write necessary articles. The commission would review the articles before publication.
- 3) Photos (such as for the online Then and Now Collection) could also be placed in the archive.

After Ms. Swartz left the meeting, the Historical Commission discussed the possible advantages and disadvantages of providing historical content to this new publication. Leydet agreed to capture a list of advantages and disadvantages as possible from the meetings discussions and send this out electronically to the Commission members for their review and consideration.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### A. City Historical Marker .pdf documents:

Based on Campbell's request, Sielagoski agreed to send all of the .pdf format documents that he has for the prior City Historical Markers to Campbell

### B. Srigley Memorial donations:

Orlando will compile a spread sheet of donations from Srigley's memorial.

### C. Meeting dates for 2022:

The Commission reviewed the list of the proposed 2022 meeting dates:

**January 4, 2022**

**February 1, 2022**

**March 1, 2022**

**April 5, 2022**

**May 3, 2022**

**June 7, 2022**

**July 5, 2022**

**August 2, 2022**

**September 6, 2022**

**October 4, 2022**

**November 1, 2022**

**December 6, 2022**

After review, it was moved by Horan, supported by Campbell, for the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission to meet on the first Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at the St. Clair Shores Public Library.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

VII. AUDIENCE

Anna Swartz, Little Blue Book / Towar Productions

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Cilluffo supported by Horan, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

The next meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission will be held on Tuesday November 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the SCSPL in the MacHarg Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Leydet,  
Recording Secretary