

## **Elk Grove Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 9/11/17**

### **Call to Order/Roll Call:**

Board members present: President Ken Miller, 1st Vice President Tim Knox, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dennis Buscher, Corresponding Secretary Cindy Mahon, Treasurer Jeanette Lawson, Rhoads School Director Roberta Tanner, Webmaster Louis Silveria, and Facilities Manager Jim Entrican for the first part of the meeting.

Board members excused: Recording Secretary Carol Dunkel and Jim Entrican for the rest of the meeting. With a required quorum present, meeting opened at 4:03 by President Ken Miller.

**Agenda approved** with no additions.

**Public Comments:** Three guests were asked to make their informational presentations so they could be excused before the Board continued with its agenda items.

- **David Lema** presented an update on what is scheduled for Elk Grove's inaugural History Week and acknowledged the EGHS Board and membership for their support and involvement over the last two years in the LMMA Foundation work he manages. The Foundation continues to capture oral history from Elk Grove's citizens via recorded stories and podcasts, is implementing its youth arts element and is seeking to fund a student scholarship. This year's LMMA fundraiser dinner scheduled for September 30 will feature another Story presented by one of the students. The City of Elk Grove's formal declaration of an annual History Week in September inspired the planning of several events in the community that include last week's Plow to Plate dinner at Rhoads School and the upcoming family friendly event on the museum grounds in conjunction with the Pinkerton Picnic in the Park and unveiling of the recently re. David hopes that the suggestion to include a mini historical podcast become a part of the City's and the CSD's public meetings.
- **Chris and Mike Schroer** represent a small group of individuals who explore paranormal activity in various historical locations in norther California. Having toured the EGHS museum and other buildings on the property, they proposed it would be in ours and their interest to further explore some areas in which they noted some signs of paranormal activity during their previous visit, particularly in Rhoads School, the Courthouse/Jail and the Museum building. They are aware the building itself is not the original Elk Grove House and Stage Stop but they picked up some vibes from various items in the house. They explained their group of paranormal investigators would schedule a time to be on site in February or March with their equipment and would welcome the silent participation of up to 16 adult volunteers interested in the process who would be charged a \$50 fee; there would be no cost to the Society and

the group would donate \$400 to the Society for every eight participants. Their findings would be provided to the EGHS and David Lema could record what would be of interest to LMMA.

***Motion:*** *Dennis moved and Jeanette seconded a motion to have the group proceed with their plans and keep us informed when a date is decided: 2/10/18 or 3/10/18. Motion carried.*

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the August 14 meeting distributed to the Board members, reading suspended and were approved and adopted with no changes.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Jeanette was unable to provide printed reports for the meeting but will provide a copy for the Minutes. She asked for approval for member reimbursement check amounts: \$420.85 to Susan Hernandez for Rhoads School expenses and \$385.00 to Jim Entrican for newsletter printing ink cartridges.

***Motion:*** *Tim moved and Roberta seconded a motion to approve the two reimbursement checks of \$420.85 and \$376.98. Motion carried.*

- Related discussion ensued regarding the high dollar cost and labor intensity of printing, assembling and mailing the bi-monthly newsletter to approximately 300 EGHS members in order to use the bulk mailing permit; a minimum of 200 mailers is required for the bulk mailing price. Two suggestions emerged:

1. The newsletter could be sent via email to those members with active email addresses at virtually no dollar cost for us; they could print it out for themselves if they want a print copy. Besides printing cost savings, the newsletter would not be limited to number of pages nor use of color. For those members who do not use email and would otherwise not receive a newsletter, print copies could be mailed using first class postage. The assumption is that most members do use email and the number of newsletters that would need to be printed and mailed first class to members would be minimal. An inquiry re: those with active email addresses and those with no email addresses needs to be made. Some members would need to be contacted by telephone to clarify their email/no email situation.

2. In place of members printing and assembling the newsletter, several local printing services could be investigated re their cost to us for printing and assembling 300 copies bi-monthly. Free business advertising in the newsletter might be provided to the print vendor as part of the cost.

All seemed favorable to both suggestions but no action was taken. Louis said he would explore these options when he returned from vacation in November.

### **Appointments:**

- Ken reported he had appointed Lorraine Croup as Nominations Chair to select two committee members and develop a slate of candidates for the six Board Officer positions to be elected at the November 20 General Membership meeting for the 2018 calendar year.
- Lorraine announced Elaine Wright and John Ross would serve on the committee with her and they would present a slate at the October Board meeting.

### **Rhoads School Update:** Roberta Tanner and Susan Hernandez reporting:

- 23 schools from Elk Grove and Sacramento districts have signed up their 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes for the school year, three new schools among them. The first class is scheduled for October 3.
- Three new docents ready to start.
- The school looks great thanks to new member John Moss to volunteered to power wash the building, which otherwise would have cost \$4,000. Roberta recommends this be done every year as part of the maintenance program.
- She thanked all who helped with the recent Plow to Plate dinner event, which raised some scholarship funds; four applications have been received so far this year.
- A new fire starter and a new Rhoads School historian have been recruited to start soon.
- The windows still need repair or replacement but more research on the type and cost of windows needs to be done. The new CSD facilities manager Priscilla Oliver has already agreed to pay for what is necessary.
- Carol Dunkel and Roberta were thanked for sewing the skirts for the crew of teenage girl volunteer costumes.

### **CSD Update:** Jim Luttrell absent, no report

### **Unfinished Business:**

- **Patio Construction:** Jeanette reported the plans have been approved by the City but the contractor says the work cannot be completed before our History Week event on 9/24 but will be by our Christmas event on 11/.
- **History Week Prep:** Susan reported volunteers and materials will be ready for six stations with activities designed for family participation and the museum will be open for tours on 9/24. Robo calls have been made. There is some confusion about how to get tickets to order picnic food so a reminder email to members needs to go out soon. The EG Chamber Leadership group will be ready to unveil their remodel of the Courthouse/Jail interior as scheduled that day.
- **First Saturday Tours:** The temperature on the 9/2 tour day reached 108 in the Rhoads School so it was closed for tours that day. For future tour days, signage banners directing visitors where to park could be put on either side of the school

parking lot. We have a key to the locked gate that is usually chain-roped closed. The number of people touring the museum and grounds was small, probably due to the hot weather that day.

- **Halloween Decorations Sale:** Jeanette and Dennis reported everything sold over the 3-day sale for revenue of \$5,000.
- **Plow to Plate Dinner:** Ken expressed thanks to everyone who attended and helped with the event. He reported that Jim's preliminary report estimated 85 tickets were sold at \$100 each for revenue of \$8,500. Approximately 100 people attended so some attendees must have been complimentary. The City contributed \$5,000 that had been requested. Costs accounted for to date were \$7,620 but this is incomplete so total revenue is not yet known. Rhoads School will receive part of the revenue but how much has not yet been determined.
- **Propane Heater Purchase:** Dennis reported these have not been purchased.
- **Wedding Pictures/Events Contract Review:** No report
- **Revolutionary War Encampment:** Ken reported plans are still underway for next spring on April 6 – 8, 2018. Wayne Gallup, a local Civil War expert, has offered his assistance.
- **Museum Store:** Cindy reported that she, Julie Deavers and Rosemarie Miller will meet in October to arrange training soon. Sally will provide copies of the Store Manager Job responsibilities and tasks recently completed by the P&P committee.

### New Business

- **Tent purchase:** Ken reported the fire department's new Fire Marshall Brittany agreed to a 3-year time frame for us to replace the tents we have been using with those that meet the fire-resistant standards. We need to have one ready for use by summer 2018. Discussion ensued regarding the sizes we probably need for the various events that use them. Considerable research re: vendors and costs should be done.
- **Elections in November:** Lorraine reported that candidate statements and ballots will again be included in the November-December newsletter to be mailed in late October. Lorraine will confirm with Ray Bayles that the November 20 general membership meeting can be held in his store.
- **Citizen's Xmas Insert Deadline:** Dennis will put in notices regarding our Old Fashioned Christmas events to be in by the 9/14 deadline.

### Additional New Business:

- **Robo Calls:** Louis reported that considerable cost savings from is realized for a call of less than 60 seconds. Jeanette explained that the Frontier bill has her name associated with the museum's phone number because a discount is given to a person that is not available to a business or organization. Louis was acknowledged for doing a great job after taking over the Robo Calls task.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Membership:** Lorraine reported she has received no new member applications.
- **Bus Tours:** Lorraine reminded us they should be called Historical Tours. Carol Dunkel and Rosemarie Miller have tentatively planned one to the McKinley Mansion in Modesto again on December 5.
- **Newsletter:** Louie reported that he has drafted the Nov-Dec newsletter but that Barbara will finish and send it in late October during the time he will be away on vacation. He encouraged the Board to consider the suggestions made earlier to decrease the cost of sending the newsletter. *See comments under Treasurer's Report on page 2.*
- **Webmaster:** Louie reported he has several updates and additions to make when he returns from vacation. He thanked Barbara for her coaching during his takeover of the job.
- **General Meeting programs:** Tim reported Dennis will present the next two months' programs: On September 18 he will present information about our research library and how people can access it. On October he will present information regarding German immigrants and their contributions after they started coming to the Elk Grove area.

**Old Fashioned Christmas:** Jeanette reported that things are on track for the Black Tie and Santa event on Sunday, November 26, with hor d'ouvres, wine and a silent auction as in the past two years. Several money donations from members have been received to cover the purchase of some attractive silent auction items. Jeanette emphasized that in addition to wine and other baskets donated for the auction she would like to have some special excursions, activities or condo stays in the mix. She will manage ticket printing and sales as in the past as the number of guests are limited. Tickets for \$40 pp will be available in October. Each decorator will be offered two complimentary Black Tie event tickets.

Cindy reported that decorators should be able to start their work the second week in October following the Oct. 7 museum tour day, as all the decorations should be out in the patio for selections the day afterwards. She will confirm that with Jim and let everyone know.

**Communications and Correspondence:** No discussion.

**Announcements:** see Agenda

**Upcoming Events:** see Agenda

**Adjournment:** With no further business at hand, President Ken adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Bergen, substituting for Carol Dunkel, Recording Secretary