

German Settlement History, Inc.
January 17, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by interim President Luann Lind at 2:03 P.M.

Present at the meeting were Karen Johnson, Karen Baumgartner, Marvin Meier, Toni Meier, Marilyn Erickson, Ron Meier, Gene Meier, Michael Meier, Luann Lind, Pam Welch and Dawn Meier. Absent and excused were Patricia Mueller and Maryalice McHugh. Visitors included Pat Swenson, LaVonne Meier and Marie Meier.

The minutes of the Sept 6, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved as written. Marv made a motion, seconded by Karen J. to accept the minutes as written with unanimous approval. The Treasurer's report was given with follow-up discussion regarding the issue of how to account for in-kind contributions and donations. Ron moved to accept the treasurer's report seconded by Karen B and unanimously approved.

Pam Welch was welcomed as the interim treasurer, with Toni passing the books to Pam for the beginning of 2010. Motion made by Toni, seconded by Karen B to authorize Pam to open a bank account in Tomahawk for GSHI. Marv offered an amendment to the original motion to allow Pam to pick which bank she prefers, with Karen B suggesting a bank that accepts accounts from non-profit organizations. The board motion passed to have the Treasurer and President as signers on the bank account. Pam recently audited the 2008 financial reports from Toni with a favorable outcome. **as a follow-up Pam opened a GSHI account at River Valley Bank in Tomahawk.*

German Settlement History Inc. is officially the owner of the 15 year Term Life insurance policy of Michael Meier. GSHI will be billed for the policy; however Toni and Michael will continue to pay the monthly bill. This motion was unanimously approved.

Motion made by Gene, seconded by Toni to nominate Luann Lind as President of the GSHI Board, unanimously approved by a voice vote. Motion made by Karen B, seconded by Karen J to nominate Pam Welch as Treasurer of the GSHI Board, unanimously approved by a voice vote. The Treasurer position is currently not an official member of the board.

There was much discussion regarding the general criteria for membership in GSHI regarding voting rights, involvement, financial support and eligibility for the Board of Directors. Michael made a motion, seconded by Gene to require a minimum \$25 per person annual membership to be included as a member of GSHI. Motion approved unanimously with further refinement and category levels being considered in the future.

Karen B provided a sample version of by-laws for local history entities as a starting point for improvement to our existing by-laws. Karen B, Marv and Toni volunteered to work as a sub-group to further refine the by-law requirements and to present a draft version at the next meeting. Primary issues this sub-committee will focus on are terms and term limits for board members and eligibility to become a board member.

Luann suggested that proceeds from the spring 2010 Barn Dance be designated specifically for the purchase of the Software designed for Museums plus a laptop computer. This will allow us to begin the task of accessioning/record keeping of the items we are accumulating. Motion made by Toni, seconded by Karen J with unanimous approval to proceed with Luann's suggestion.

Michael described his proposal with the Machine Shed displays and simple interpretive material which will allow visitors to flow through the building easily. The interior walls will be white with shelving units and simple descriptions of the items on display. Marv suggested starting with one or two walls, beginning with the North and west walls. Machine Shed sub-committee members Michael, Marv, Gene, Luann and Karen J will begin work on this project in the next few months. Michael also explained that the Machine Shed and the red shed now have rain gutters, as the Liberty School House received new gutters.

Another item of business from Michael was the issue of people that want to give GSHI "stuff". We need to determine a systematic approach to accepting items being donated. Luann recommended that when someone approaches a board member with items they want to donate, that two Board members should go to review the items and decide what they will accept. Prior to the Labor Day Open House when we see a lot of visitors, we would meet as a board to review what items we wish to dispose of. Gene expanded this item to say that once a year we could have a sale or an auction of the items that we have accumulated that are no longer needed for our purpose. As long as the donator is aware that even if we accept an item, through the proper execution of Deed of Gift form, we have the right to de-accession anything we deem to be excess to our needs.

The next GSHI meeting is scheduled for Saturday March 27, 2010 beginning at 10:00 where we will meet at Bob Rusch's Rib Lake History Society LLC for education sharing and lessons learned from Bob, potluck lunch back at Liberty School House, followed by our next meeting. Marvin will schedule this appointment with Bob and we could plan to carpool from Liberty School.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier,
Secretary