

German Settlement History, Inc.
January 28, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 10:08 A.M.

Present at the meeting were Toni Meier, Pam Welch, Marilyn Erickson, Karen Johnson, Luann Lind, Karen Baumgartner, Maryalice Mchugh, Marv Meier, Michael Meier, and Dawn Meier. Absent and excused was Gene Meier. Visitors included Barb Failing, Gary Failing, Herb Magnuson, Joan Magnuson, Pat Swenson, LaVonne Meier, Sandy Johnson, and Jed Reiten.

The minutes of the September 4, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Maryalice made a motion, seconded by Karen J. to accept the minutes as updated with unanimous approval.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Marv moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Maryalice with unanimous approval.

The revised By-Laws were previously mailed to the full membership. Motion was made by Marv, seconded by Maryalice to accept the revised By-Laws as written. Following the collection and tally of all the ballots, the vote to accept the balloting for the updated By-Laws from the membership was unanimous. Following the ballot count, there was a voice vote with unanimous approval by the Board to approve the By-Laws. As a result of the revised By-Laws, we are now able to take the next step of requesting membership to the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Election of Board Members included the tally of all ballots received prior to the meeting. Karen J. and Marv served as the nominating committee for the replacement of the two Board Members whose five year terms had expired - Maryalice Mchugh and Ronald Meier. No new names from the floor were nominated for consideration on the Board of Directors. There were a total of 40 ballots cast including the Board of Directors and the general membership of G.S.H.I. Maryalice Mchugh was elected for another 5 year term and Barb Failing was elected to a five year term.

There was a discussion regarding the inventory of local author's books that we have been selling. Michael informed us that following the death of Harold Rhody, the family offered six boxes of Carl Rhody's books that had been in Harold's house. No extra copies exist of Carl's first book and there are very few of his fourth book remaining. Pam made (a very smart) motion, seconded by Marilyn that our Book Publishing Committee consisting of Toni and Maryalice are to work out the details of how we actually republish books that we hold the copyright to. For the March meeting, they will present the details of the process needed to scan, prepare and publish a book and what the cost would be, furthermore we will use Carl Rhody's first book "The Saga of Spirit Valley" as our test, to learn the proper process for publishing. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Re-shingling the Yesterday House will be a priority project in the spring with Luann and Gene volunteering for the roof work and assistance from Marv and Michael to complete the project. Gene picked up the shingles late in the fall and they are currently stored in the Machine Shed. Michael and Marv are researching the proper technique to re-shingle a log structure, determining how far down to the original boards they need to remove the current roof.

The two new signs and frames designed by the interpretive media class at UW Stevens Point have arrived and will be installed in the spring. One sign will be planted near the entrance of the flower garden path, which gives an overview of G.S.H.I., the second sign specifically talks about the Yesterday House and will be affixed to the side of the building.

Gene, Marv and Michael have been meeting for work projects throughout the winter and have made progress on the women's corner in the Machine Shed. Bill Hoffman donated 8 pieces of dance floor material which is being used to display a wringer washer,

weaving loom, cream separator and other household equipment.

There was discussion introduced by Toni regarding the development of a memorial for Ronald Meier focusing on the Machine Shed display. LaVonne Meier offered that she plans to contribute the additional cost of a third interpretive sign that would highlight the theme of the Machine Shed, in memory of Ron. A motion made by Maryalice and second by Pam was unanimously approved to modify the UWSP students original sign design and to incorporate some sort of tribute to Ron as part of the interpretation of the Machine Shed.

Marv made a motion, second by Pam which was unanimously approved to sell some of the poorer quality, duplicate metal equipment that we have acquired. A heavy metal loom and a spike-tooth drag are two items that we agreed to liquidate at our earliest convenience.

Luann has completely re-worked the G.S.H.I. website and has given it a sharper and more appealing look. She is asking for edits and other suggested changes that would improve the information provided on the website. The information on the website for the Liberty School is too detailed, so Michael with assistance from Karen B. will re-word the language to keep it more concise.

Luann will also pursue the possibility of printing the G.S.H.I. brochure which the UWSP students developed. Michael noted several changes that need to be made, and will provide edit suggestions. Luann has been able to incorporate the G.S.H.I. logo that the UWSP students originally developed into our website and other media. The logo is a simple pencil-like drawing of the Yesterday House which can be used on our letterhead, website and other advertisements.

The proposal of building an accessible ramp for the barn dance has generated \$815 to date. Toni made a motion as amended, second by Marv to earmark the funds raised from the 2012 barn dance for the completion of the ramp. With unanimous board approval, we agreed that the ramp would be built by volunteer labor from the Board with Nathan Lind's direction and the ramp would be completed prior to this year's barn dance. Additional funds raised at the barn dance once the ramp is paid in full, will be designated at a later date.

New business was introduced by Pam with the suggestion that with our checking account increasing slightly each year it may be beneficial to open a savings account where we could earn interest. Having a savings account would allow Pam the ability to designate separate accounts in her Quickbooks program for the various specific projects that are on-going in the restricted accounts column. Marv made a motion, second by Maryalice with unanimous approval from the Board of Directors that Pam could set up a savings account for G.S.H.I funds.

President Luann officially welcomed Barb Failing and Maryalice McHugh to the Board for a five year term.

Toni informed us that Price County Tourism has asked for permission to print a picture of the Yesterday House for their upcoming publication as part of their public relations work.

Michael relayed a conversation that he recently had with Kelly Sweo (Kelly Crowell's granddaughter) that she and a partner are bluegrass musicians and offered to play if we had an event that would be suitable. Pam suggested that it might be nice to have them stationed outside the barn dance on the lawn, sort of as a prelude to the DJ music.

Glenn Brazelton of Price County Historical Society has multiple research projects in the works and has asked for specifics regarding photographers who may have worked in the spirit area during the early 1900's. "Mars" is one name that comes up frequently in association with early photographs. Karen J. may have additional information as her father's sister was married to a Mars.

New Text Document

Marv presented a historical writing by Joyce Bant - "Culture and Continuity of Knox Mills, WI" and suggested that we will want to collect things such as this for our library collection.

Dawn donated several compact discs for the library. One recording is an oral history interview of Roy Meier in the mid 1970's. Another was an interview of Ronald Meier of his Korean War experience, recorded at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in 2010. Also a copy of Ronald Meier's Memorial Service and a slide show and compilation of his photos was presented to the G.S.H.I. library for their records.

Maryalice mentioned that at our Open Houses, many children have been asking questions and seem intrigued about our displays. She mentioned that we may want to contact some local school teachers and offer class trips to our facility as a history lesson.

Through personal research that Maryalice has been conducting, she has been in contact with the descendents of Maria (Amandus) Johnson's sisters who stayed behind in Sweden rather than immigrating to America. Karen B. and Maryalice are planning a trip this summer to tour Scandinavia and to visit with these extended family members.

The next GSHI Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 25, 2011 at 1:00 following a potluck lunch.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Maryalice, second by Karen J. at 11:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier

Secretary
02-03-2012

Immediately following the annual meeting of the G.S.H.I. the Board of Directors met to elect officers:

President - nomination by Toni, second by Marilyn to elect Luann Lind as G.S.H.I. President for a one year term. Marv made a motion with second by Michael to close nominations for President. Michael made a motion for the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Luanne as President, with a second by Marv.

Vice President - nomination by Maryalice, second by Michael to elect Karen Baumgartner as G.S.H.I. Vice President for a one year term. Toni made a motion with second by Pam to close nominations for Vice President. Michael made a motion for the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Karen B. as Vice President, with a second by Pam.

Secretary - nomination by Michael, second by Karen J. to elect Dawn Meier as G.S.H.I. Secretary for a one year term. Maryalice made a motion with second by Pam to close nominations for Secretary. Marv made a motion for the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Dawn as Secretary, with a second by Marilyn.

Treasurer - nomination by Maryalice, second by Marv to elect Pam Welch as G.S.H.I. Treasurer for a one year term. Michael made a motion with second by Karen B. to close nominations for Treasurer. Toni made a motion for the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Pam as Treasurer, with a second by Maryalice.

Pam made a motion to adjourn the Meeting for the Election of Officers of the G.S.H.I. Board of Directors, with a second by Michael, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,