

German Settlement History, Inc.

June 23, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 12:53 P.M.

Present at the meeting were Barb Failing, Toni Meier, Marilyn Erickson, Michael Meier, Pam Welch, Maryalice McHugh, Gene Meier, Karen Baumgartner, Marv Meier, Luann Lind and Dawn Meier. Absent and excused was Karen Johnson. Visitors included Pat Swenson and Joleen Meier.

The minutes of the March 25, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Marv made a motion, seconded by Maryalice to accept the minutes with unanimous approval.

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

We discussed the 8th Annual Barn Dance with several new improvements and additions which added to the overall success. Pam presented a spreadsheet which displayed the historical income comparison for the past year's events. The event continues to expand in popularity as we make improvement each year. One big improvement that was made to the preparation of the barn dance this year was to have the vacuuming and haymow cleaning-crew set up and organized the tables and chairs well in advance to allow Sunday afternoon needed time to set-up the silent auction items.

New additions to this year's event included a map board which encouraged visitors to place a pin on their hometown to provide a visual of where everyone lives. Luann purchased glow sticks to the kids after dark, which was a big hit. Adding lawn chairs to the lawn outside the barn, allowed the crowd of just over 300 people to disperse and provided a more relaxed atmosphere for non-dancers. Roadside signs placed at the German Settlement Road intersections with Hwy 86 and County YY were appreciated by many who were unfamiliar with the area. Additional speakers allowed the music to be more focused and not broadcast too loudly. The hay maze for kids of all ages (Andy Holmquist) was a success.

For next year's event, we would like to resolve the safety issue with kids and traffic in the driveway after dark. We discussed the possibility of providing a shuttle service for people who need assistance finding their car on the road after dark. Another option might be to extend the driveway into a loop, so that the driveway could serve as a way-one route and allow closer parking options for more people. Also, chocolate cream pie is a popular choice, but next year we should thaw them several hours ahead. An additional tube of ice cream could also be ordered, since we ran out early in the evening.

There was a topic introduced by Pam whereby we would provide a small stipend to the Lind family as a way to help off-set some of the uncompensated expenses they incur hosting the event each year - such as added electricity usage, paper goods, coffee, lemonade, garbage cans, decorations, plywood flooring, etc. Michael made a motion, second by Pam to give a stipend of \$400 to the Lind's for the past 8 years of barn dances hosted at their farm - \$50 for each year, and \$200 for each future year the event is held. Vice President Karen B. called for the question in favor of the motion. Voice vote passed with majority approval and one dissenting vote

Gary Edinger taught and called square dances for the 2nd year, was also a big draw which brought new people to the event. There was concern that the quantity of square dancing didn't allow enough time for many of the other popular dances (Macarena, YMCA, limbo, chicken dance, etc). Next year we will encourage a better balance to accommodate everyone. Michael made a motion, seconded by Gene to send a thank you note, along with a \$50 gift certificate for Harbor View Restaurant in Phillips to Gary for his contribution of time and talent with the square dancing. Karen B. volunteered to take care of the thank you note on our behalf.

Project List: Maryalice and Toni are still working on finding a book publisher that would be suitable for our use. They will offer an update at the next meeting. The south side of the Yesterday House was re-shingled by volunteers in May, including Troy Johnson - great grandson of Amandus Johnson who was the original architect and builder of the log home. It is planned to complete the north side of the re-shingling prior to our Open House in September. The first two interpretive signs were installed on the property - "Our Yesterday House" and "This Land Is Our Land" earlier this spring. The Machine Shed sign which will be purchased by LaVonne Meier in memory of Ronald is being edited and should be available for display later this summer.

Michael has been accumulating military memorabilia including Civil War Calvary items from Len Meier's collection, plus other items from various other wars. A sub-committee of Marilyn, Marv, Dawn and Michael will meet to discuss a proposal for displaying the artifacts, along with the interpretive sign depicting Liberty School students who served their country through the years.

The next issue of Liberty School news is expected to be published in August. This issue will include a photo display of the barn dance and the shingling project. The accessible ramp for the barn dance was completed this year prior to the event by volunteers, being lead with expert direction from Nathan Lind Carpentry. Proceeds from this year's barn dance, along with additional designated contributions, paid for the entire cost of the ramp.

New Business: Labor Day weekend will be an Open House on Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 and Monday 10:00 - 5:00. Board members are asked to bring baked goods for the event, to serve with coffee and lemonade. Dawn and Pam will modify the road signs from the barn dance to be used for the open house at the road intersections. Board Members should plan to be available to serve as docents throughout the open house.

Luann will set-up the booth at the Spirit Fair again this year to help advertise our organization. Everyone should be keeping track of the time that they donate to the organization, since all volunteer hours will be added as part of the report to the WI Historical Society. Our computer program offers a volunteer tracking system, which Dawn will work with Toni to begin recording the contributed volunteer hours.

Country Chicks donated a white lilac bush in memory of Marie Meier and Liberty Bells donated 2 plants in memory of Bessie Scheller and Marge Zielke, which will be planted in our gardens. Herb Magnuson donated a pine saw which was used by Bill Johnson's grandfather in the 1870's which is unique in that it does not have raker teeth. Chuck & Mary Johnson have an original wooden, 4 wheel manure spreader they would like to donate. Gene and Michael will coordinate transportation to re-locate it on site.

The next GSHI Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday Sept 2, 2012 at 5:00.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Gene second by Maryalice at 2:16.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier

06-26-2012

Following the meeting, we walked around the grounds to inspect some of the project improvements that have been made to the property. Work continues to progress in the Machine Shed. Weeding the flower gardens and re-planting where needed is an on-going project with several volunteers uncertain about flower and weed identity. All assistance is appreciated to help keep the yard and gardens looking well maintained. In discussing the gardens, Toni asked for a quorum to approve the purchase of wood mulch to be used through the gardens. With ten board members present, there was unanimous approval to purchase bulk mulch.