

German Settlement History, Inc.
September 14, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 1:30 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Karen Baumgartner, Michael Meier, Maryalice Mc Hugh, Toni Meier, Pam Welch, Karen Johnson, Marv Meier, Barb Failing, Luann Lind and Dawn Meier. Absent and excused was Jesse Rhody and Gene Meier. Visitors included Sue Roupp, Al Roupp, Pat Swenson, LaVonne Meier and Marilyn Erickson.

The minutes of the June 22, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Maryalice made a motion to accept the minutes as written with a second by Karen J. with unanimous approval.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion was made by Maryalice to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, second by Barb with unanimous approval.

GSHI Open House and Picnic held on Saturday July 26th was discussed, when we welcomed around 60 visitors with many new names added to our mailing list. We plan to continue with the tradition of hosting this event on July 25th, 2015 which is the last Saturday of July. It was agreed that we should do more advertising of the event so that we continue to bring in new friends and neighbors to our organization.

The workday that was held the week prior to the open house was very productive in getting ready to host visitors. Additional work and accessioning continues to be needed inside the machine shed but with each workday, efforts are bringing the displays and artifacts to a more manageable state. Gene worked with a skid steer to spread the pile of gravel around the machine shed to better display the outside machinery.

Rodent proofing of the Yesterday House has continued with the addition of 15 tubes of caulk during the workday in July. Barb and Karen J. have volunteered to spray wood preservative to the outside logs this fall if they are able to coordinate schedules with a sunny day. At the previous meeting Jesse Rhody offered to research and secure the proper preservative that should be used.

Maryalice reported that the Oral History Committee discussed hosting a community story telling event later this fall or winter. Meeting guest Sue Roupp informed us that she hosts "Shared Moments" story telling events at the Rib Lake Library on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and that she would be willing to assist us in getting

something started. Sue teaches Memoir Writing classes, has won awards for her poetry, taught at UW-Madison, had a tv show for two years, is trained as a national actor and speaker and lots more and could be a valuable resource to our organization with our efforts of oral history and the audio recording of stories. Sue could be a valuable resource for our organization.

Dawn continues to gather volunteer hours contributed and enter them into *Past Perfect* database. We can capture actual time spent working, driving time, time needed for assembling materials and tools for a project, plus any administration and planning time, including attending meetings.

There was a discussion about the possible need to build a ramp leading up to at least one doorway of the Yesterday House in order to allow better access.

Michael and Toni presented the latest information they received from Kathy Barnes in Tennessee who is looking to donate the remainder of Jeanette Gilge (Barnes) books which consist of 10 boxes of books. The Board discussed ideas about transporting the books to German Settlement History, Inc. as cheaply as possible. Since each weighs 35-40 pounds, it is not something that a standard automobile would be able to easily transport. We will check into other options such as have them shipped, or contracting with a trucking firm to haul them north. Luann will check with one of her sources. Toni will get more specific information regarding which books are available and will ask for an updated inventory so we can be certain that the binding is not beginning to break down on the books.

Brandt's Bear is the 1979 story written by James A Rhody which has been out of print. Since Michael reprinted a portion of the story in the last issue of Liberty School news, there have been several requests to pursue the idea of re-printing the book, although at this time we will defer that decision.

There was a discussion about the recent donation of an original "Muster Out Roll" of Company K of the 18th Wisconsin Regiment dated July, 1865. We would like to be able to display artifact, but recognize that the current framed condition does not include museum quality glass and would deteriorate given exposure to daylight. Luann made the suggestion rather than to have the large hand-written document professionally framed, we could have a color copy made of the original so as to display to copy and properly store the original in a manner that will not degrade the quality over time.

The nominating committee consisting of Mayalice and Marv will work together this fall to generate possible interest in new candidates for the Board of Directors. Board members each

serve a five year term, with Karen Baumgartner and Dawn Meier reaching the end of their current five year term at the end of 2014.

The Board scheduled a workday for Saturday October 11 from 1:00-4:00 to assist in finishing some of the projects that were started earlier.

There was a discussion about the reimbursement to Luann of some topsoil she had delivered to the yard in order to fill in some of the larger holes throughout the mowed area of the yard. Michael made a motion, with a second by Dawn to pay Luann the cost of the dirt. Since Luann would not divulge the cost of the dirt, but insisted that she did this on her own without any expectation of being reimbursed and explained that the holes simply made her slow down when she was mowing the lawn. Dawn felt that holes in the lawn were a liability concern for us since many of them are deep and could easily cause visitors injury. Karen B. serving as the Vice President, took over the order of the meeting and asked for the motion. At that point Marv amended the original motion to include \$150 to be reimbursed to Luann for the cost of the dirt, with a second by Maryalice and majority approval with Luann dissenting.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 18, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. beginning with a potluck lunch followed by the meeting. This meeting will include the election of two Board Members and election of officers as needed.

Michael read a very touching poem called North Star by Sheila Packa which tells of moving to a new country.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Karen J. second by Maryalice at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier

Secretary

09-21-2014