

German Settlement History, Inc.
March 22, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 1:25 P.M.

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

Michael made a motion, seconded by Maryalice to approve the meeting agenda as presented with unanimous approval.

The minutes of the January 18, 2015 annual meeting were reviewed with two slight edits noted. Maryalice made a motion, seconded by Barb to accept the minutes as corrected with unanimous approval.

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

Toni presented the estimate from DigiCopy for the cost of scanning and printing a small run of *Brandt's Bear* written by James Rhody. Pam presented a motion, with a second by Dawn, that GSHI would pay the \$60 to have the book scanned, to have 100 copies of the books printed and bound at the cost of \$6.30 per copy and that we would sell the book for \$10 each. The motion passed with unanimous approval. It was further noted that once this book is re-printed, GSHI should have sufficient copies of all other books that we currently sell including the entire series of Jeanette Gilge's books.

Following the meeting in January, Dawn entered all volunteer hours into our *Past Perfect* computer program for 2014. Since she is not certain how to run a report which could show the accumulated hours being donated from year to year, additional research and training of the program features will be needed. It will be important to continue to record the hours each volunteer serves, in the event that GSHI would apply for grants in the future.

Clare Meier leads the Audio Committee for oral history interviews. Since she was not present at the meeting, no formal report was provided but it was stated that minimal progress had been made since the last meeting.

Toni informed the Board that having a copy printed of the large hand-written original "Muster Out Roll" would cost between \$20 and \$30 which would allow the copy to be displayed while storing the original document in an acid free folder for long-term safe keeping.

A friendship quilt made between 1933 and 1935 by local woman from the Center School neighborhood was recently donated to GSHI by Joyce Bant. The gift includes a brief history written by Grace Lynn Swenson of each name embroidered onto the quilt. Luann and Karen B. will research short biographies of each name and prepare the quilt for public display at the Spirit Town Hall for the Memorial Day program and Spirit 4-H Fair. Due to the delicate nature of the quilt, it may be necessary to obtain a wall display quilt rack for occasional viewing.

Maryalice presented photo samples of a GSHI t-shirt logo prototype that could be ordered and available for better identification of Board Members at our public events. After much discussion, Pam offered to coordinate the logistics with Oak Ridge Embroidery & Gifts in Tomahawk, WI. A motion was made by Maryalice with a second by Toni for GSHI to pay for the set-up fee of the GSHI logo and each director would be responsible for paying to have the shirt of their choosing embroidered by the company. Since the logo is basic black and charcoal color with a bit of cream, virtually any color shirt would work. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Board of Directors discussed the idea of providing an accessible ramp into one of the doors of the Yesterday House to provide basic access into the lower level of the building for people who need assistance with walkers, strollers, canes and wheelchairs. A committee consisting of Gene, Michael and Jesse will research the feasibility of the idea of building a ramp and to determine the best approach.

Michael has been working with Joan Magnuson to craft ideas to provide classroom presentations to local area 4th graders highlighting the main features at GSHI. Due to the winterization process of the Yesterday House, GSHI advertises that we are open for tours upon request between Memorial Day and Labor Day and that other times would not be practical. Rather than expecting schools to visit GSHI during the summer months, a short presentation in the classroom may generate additional interest for the students to encourage their families to visit. It was noted that opening up in the spring and preparing the facility for public viewing is labor intensive and not practical any earlier than Memorial Day weekend.

Rather than schedule one specific date for our “spring cleaning” workday, it was decided that specific teams would coordinate each task. Pam and Karen B. will clean and prepare the Yesterday House on May 18. Michael, Gene, Jesse and Marv will plan to work in the Machine Shed one or two days prior to Memorial Day. Karen J. and Dawn will weed and clean the teacher’s garden sometime in May.

Due to concerns about items fading from the intense sun on the military display, we agreed to the necessity of purchasing a UV shade for the west window. Luann will research the options and report back at the next meeting.

Specific Barn Dance Committee assignments for our May 24, 2015 event were reviewed by Luann. Board of Director assignments are similar to past years. Set up will be on Saturday morning @ 10:00, with an emphasis on needing many strong volunteers the first half hour that day to handle the heavy furniture.

Luann raised the issue of posting our unapproved meeting minutes to the website, since the timing could be greatly delayed if we wait for the official version to be released each quarter. It was agreed that she would indicate that they are draft minutes, and that the final version will be available following the next meeting.

As a follow-up to the discussion from the annual meeting regarding the rotating assignment of the nominating committee from year to year, Michael made a motion, seconded by Gene that the two most recent Board Members which have fully completed their first term, will be automatically designated for the next years nominating committee. Stated another way, at the January annual meeting the nominating committee for the following year will consist of the two board members who were elected at the prior year’s annual meeting. So that rather than having the two most recent members serve on the committee, it will be the two elected in the previous year. For the 2016 election, the nominating committee will be Karen J. and Luann. Motion passed unanimously.

Due to a discrepancy of the advertised date for the annual GSHI picnic, Toni made a motion, with a second by Maryalice for last Saturday in July each year to be the date of our annual picnic. Motion passed with unanimous approval. For 2015, Saturday July 25 we will host the annual GSHI picnic.

The next GSHI Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday June 14, 2015 immediately following a 12:30 potluck lunch at Liberty School.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Maryalice second by Karen B. at 2:35 P.M. with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier
Secretary
06-21-2015