

German Settlement History, Inc.
April 2, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Karen Baumgartner at 1:40 P.M.

Present at the meeting were Marv Meier, Jesse Rhody, Toni Meier, Pam Welch, Michael Meier, Karen Baumgartner, Gene Meier, Karen Johnson, Maryalice McHugh (via Skype) and Dawn Meier with Barb Failing and Luann Lind absent and excused. Visitor was LaVonne Meier.

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

The minutes of the January 24, 2016 annual meeting were reviewed. Karen J. made a motion, seconded by Pam to accept the minutes as presented with unanimous approval.

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

Pam reminded the group that she is collecting all volunteer hours and recording them in the *Past Perfect* program. Standard meetings and workdays will be automatically calculated including driving time for individuals. It is the other activities that people need to keep track of their volunteer time and give to Pam for entry. Just as a reminder, any hours contributed toward the overall improvement and advancement of the G.S.H.I. organization should be captured as volunteer service. Whereas claiming mileage for personal vehicle travel is not something that we reimburse volunteers but individuals could deduct that expense on personal taxes as a charitable donation.

Purchasing a portable ramp to be used for access to The Yesterday House was discussed. Dawn volunteered at the annual meeting to provide samples and cost estimates for this meeting, but failed to follow-up. Since we would like to have a ramp available for the summer picnic, a decision will need to be made at the next meeting.

Karen B. and Barb volunteered to clean and open The Yesterday house this year. A list of other activities that need to be accomplished around the property will be generated prior to the April 30 workday. Everyone is invited to participate, beginning at 10:00. Pam will provide lunch for the entire group of volunteers.

Luann provided a list of specific Barn Dance Committee assignments for our May 29, 2016 event. Board of Director assignments are similar to past years. Set up will be on Saturday morning May 28th @ 10:00, with an emphasis on needing many strong volunteers the first half hour of the day to handle the heavy furniture.

The Board of Directors discussed several improvements that could be made to the silent auction. It was decided that we should end the bidding at 9:30 rather than 10:00, since it seems that some people do not bid on items, since they do not wish to stay too late into the evening. At the close of the silent auction, all board members should station themselves in front of auction item tables and quickly pick up the bid sheets once the bell has been rung. Strategically placing items in a more organized fashion may help facilitate gathering them at the end of the night. Especially with the Spirit Valley groupings, it would allow for easier collection, if the bid sheet simply described the geographic location of the item – such as left table or right shelf.

It has been confirmed that Eric Gladson of 'That 1 Productions' will DJ the Barn Dance. Gary Edinger will again be available to teach square dancing and will alternate with 10 minute sets. Duane Karau has requested to teach ballroom dancing during designated sets. Although there was discussion to allow Duane an opportunity to provide some teaching, we felt that we should leave that up to Eric whether he could easily transition from one genre to the next without losing interest.

Friends of Liberty School Picnic and Open House is the last Saturday in July which will be July 30 this year from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The German Settlement History Inc. Facebook page has been doing quite well on the internet. Maryalice, Luann and Dawn have been posting new photographs from our collection at least every other day, which has generated a lot of interest. Certain photographs are being viewed by nearly 1,300, with just under 500 individuals who 'like' our organization. We have experienced long lost friends and relatives who have reconnected through our Facebook and website pages and it seems like a simple yet effective method to spread our mission.

Due to budget cuts within the local school districts, it seems that organized school trips have been reduced. Michael will check with the Rib Lake 4th grade teachers to invite them to visit G.S.H.I. if they are able. With Karen B., Gene and Joan Magnuson assisting Michael and Toni last year, it made for a very effective educational experience for the students.

Michael informed us about the Friends of Fred Smith Heritage Day event on May 20 in Phillips that G.S.H.I. was invited to participate. Toni and Karen B. will discuss and coordinate a possible demonstration for the 4th grade attendees showing a treadle sewing machine and how all clothing garments used to be made.

Nora McMahon recently passed on, and being a strong supporter of G.S.H.I., we were informed by Michael that Nora left all of her personal belongings to our organization. Jesse (did Gene also?) volunteered to haul the bulk of the effects from Nora's home in Phillips to G.S.H.I.. Jesse, with assistance from Eric Gladson and his employee Derrick helped relocate the heavy furniture to the loft at Liberty School. Michael made a motion, seconded by Pam to take \$40 from our petty cash account so that Jesse could give it to Eric for his invaluable assistance. Motion passed with unanimous approval. Michael brought two carloads of books from Nora's home to G.S.H.I. which he will sort through as time permits. Barb and Toni will begin sorting through other boxes and will select specific items that could be added to the Barn Dance silent auction this year and for future years. A gathering for family and friends to celebrate Nora's life will take place later this spring or summer in Spirit, at which time other items from Nora's collection will be displaced and made available for sale, with all proceeds going to support G.S.H.I.

Pam provided a sample of the new #10 envelopes that were purchased with our G.S.H.I. logo and address. These will be used for future mailings.

The next GSHI Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Saturday June 11, 2016 at 10:30 – with no lunch included.

Pam made a motion, seconded by Toni that Luann Lind was officially excused from this meeting, since this was her first absence since being elected President of the organization.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Marv second by Toni at 2:35 P.M. with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier
Secretary
03-10-2016