

German Settlement History, Inc.
January 24, 2016 Annual Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 1:40 P.M.

Present at the meeting were Toni Meier, Maryalice McHugh (via Facetime), Gene Meier, Jesse Rhody, Pam Welch, Marv Meier, Karen Johnson, Michael Meier, Barb Failing, Karen Baumgartner, Luann Lind, and Dawn Meier. Guests included Linda Marshall, Rod Maki, June Johnson, Phil Resch, Marie Arneson, Joan and Herb Magnuson, LaVonne Meier, Marilyn Erickson, Pat Swenson, Joleen Meier and Darrel Lind.

The minutes of the September 27, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Toni 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 Karen J. with unanimous approval.

The first order of business was an update from Luann regarding the Deed of Gift status. She has received approval from the owners of several photographic collections that we are able to utilize them as needed. Knowing who is in a particular photo before posting it on social media is helpful, but not always possible. We will continue to share photos on our Facebook page, which in itself seems to keep our organization 'active' and allows people to be able to better connect with us and our mission. Michael shared a short video that was done in the summer by Wisconsin Life – part of Wisconsin Public Broadcasting and the Humanities Council. This segment showed G.S.H. I. and the Spirit Memorial Park being prominently on display and helping to spread positive insights on the Town of Spirit.

Volunteer hours are now being tracked and recorded into the *Past Perfect* database by Pam who has taken a larger role in assisting with the administrative duties of the organization, in lieu of her not volunteering for more of the logistical and physical tasks. Pam also volunteered to process and print the thank you letters to be given to Michael for his signature and mailing. Utilizing the features within the *Past Perfect* program has been a big learning curve, but should save time once she becomes proficient.

Pam presented a very nice bound book that we will begin using to document memorials that are received. When a donation is made in honor of or in memoriam of someone, it will be permanently documented in the book.

Luann and Karen B. provided an example of the extensive and comprehensive process used to accession any item that we receive. They have been working on items in the machine shed. Whenever items come in as a deed of gift, they need to be kept separate until they are recorded and cataloged. They have processed 150 items in the last quarter alone, with each item taking up to 15 minutes to complete for full process.

There was a discussion about the need for us to provide some sort of accessible ramp into the Yesterday House. Dawn researched the availability of a portable, aluminum ramp that could be used on an as needed basis, rather than building a permanent wooden structure that would detract from the setting. For the next meeting, Dawn will bring photo samples and price estimates so that we could decide our options prior to opening to the public in the spring.

The nominating committee counted the ballots for the two open seats on the Board of Directors. Since there were no write-in votes or discrepancies to the 23 total ballots that were returned, Karen B. made a motion to accept the results of the election with a second by Maryalice to elect Gene Meier and Pam Welch each to a new five year term. The motion received unanimous approval.

We reviewed the calendar of events for 2016 and confirmed that the Barn Dance will be held on Sunday, May 29th and the Friends of Liberty School Picnic & Open House will be July 30th.

Luann made a suggestion of how to better utilize the photographs that we have been acquiring that do not have any identification associated with them. There may be cases where someone might dispose of old photos, simply because they can't identify anyone in the photo. Opportunities exist where some of these items could be used as a teaching tool for children's groups that visit G.S.H.I. and allow children to learn about the process of genealogy and how family trees work. It was suggested that we write on the back of these unidentifiable photo, the name of the person who donated them and the name of the photographer, since this information may help someone in the future.

Dick Zielke presented two family story boards that he has recently developed. Others are encouraged to develop their own family story where it can be displayed in the Yesterday House for others to learn.

The next G.S.H.I. Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 2, 2016 following a 12:30 potluck lunch.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Pam, and a second by Toni with unanimous approval at 2:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier
Secretary
03-08-2016

German Settlement History, Inc.
January 24, 2016 Election for Officers to the Board of Directors

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

Michael made a motion with a second by Karen B. to present the entire slate of current officers and to roll them over into the next year. This list includes: Luann Lind as G.S.H.I. President for a one year term, Karen Baumgartner as G.S.H.I. Vice President for a one year term, Dawn Meier as G.S.H.I. Secretary for a one year term and Pam Welch as G.S.H.I. Treasurer for a one year term.

Michael made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for the four officers as nominated and was seconded by Toni with unanimous approval from the Board of Directors.

Prior to adjournment of the meeting, Michael recognized and thanked all the Board Members and the many guests who attended the meeting for their continued support and dedication to G.S.H.I.

Marv 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 Karen J. with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier
Secretary
01-30-2016