

German Settlement History, Inc.
September 11, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting

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

Present at the meeting were Michael Meier, Karen Baumgartner, Toni Meier, Pam Welch, Maryalice McHugh via Skype from Colorado, Marv Meier, Barb Failing, Luann Lind, Dawn Meier and Gene Meier. Absent and excused were Jesse Rhody and Karen Johnson. Visitors included Joleen Meier, Herb and Joan Magnuson, Pat Swenson, LaVonne Meier and Marie Arneson.

The minutes of the June 11, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Pam made a motion to accept the minutes as written with a second by Marv with unanimous approval.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion was made by Marv to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, second by Dawn with unanimous approval. It was noted that the Estate of Nora McMahon has generated more than \$1,600 to date for G.S.H.I. and that additional money is expected as additional items are sold.

There was a discussion about the recent addition of a ramp into the Yesterday House to provide a bit more ease and stability for elderly and people with strollers wanting to enter the building. Thanks to the efforts of Dawn, neighbor Sero Selimovic and Dave Bethel of Northern WI Land Services, the crushed granite ramp and parking lot improvements were completed in time and under budget for the July Picnic. Additional work will need to be done with the hand rail, but the ramp is serviceable and fits nicely with the surroundings.

Discussing the annual picnic, Luann suggested that we need to consider a different arrangement for seating on the lawn. The big tables that we have been using are very heavy and difficult to move. During a hot day as the position of shade changes, it would be helpful to be able to easily relocate tables out of the sun. In the future we should research other options for sturdy yet portable tables. We talked about providing better advertising for the picnic – similar to the Barn Dance. Although we had a good turn-out of G.S.H.I. friends, former Liberty School students and family, we are not reaching new people and it would be good to invite others to the facility that have not yet discovered us. Michael suggested that we could arrange to have a keynote speaker or some other special event to provide an interesting topic at a designated time during the picnic.

For the record, Pam gave accolades to the continued success of the Spirit Memorial Park. Although G.S.H.I. is not specifically involved, many of the Board Members were instrumental in developing the Park and it is wonderful to see the continued popularity of the place. Pam congratulated the Town of Spirit on the outstanding upkeep and maintenance of the park, including the recent painting of the playground equipment.

Luann explained that the Visa card connected with the G.S.H.I. account is required to be used regularly or the bank will lock it due to security concerns. Pam will transfer the Thrivent insurance payment to this account, so that the card will remain active.

Michael explained that he will be having the Liberty School building and their red garage treated for Asian beetles and flies this fall and wondered if G.S.H.I. would consider having the Yesterday House and Machine Shed treated at the same time. Pam made a motion, with a second by Dawn to have the technician spray all the buildings on the same day and that G.S.H.I. would pay the cost of our two buildings. Motion passed unanimously.

Local author Don Rhody recently published a historical novel "He Built with Stones; A Story of the Swedish Emigration Years of the Late 19th Century". Following a short discussion, Marv made a motion, seconded by Pam to allow Michael to approach Don about printing a book review in the next Liberty School News and that we would also offer to sell the book through our organization. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Michael is beginning to collect stories and photographs for the October issue of Liberty School News. Bill Hoffman previously supplied detailed information regarding Abram Adams and may have additional stories regarding the Civil War era. Luann mentioned that Spirit Fair will be celebrating its 75th year in 2017 which might offer another opportunity for stories and photos to be submitted. Another idea would be to ask several people to contribute a short article about their first hunting gun that they remember.

It was noted that Karen B. and Luann have continued to perform outstanding archival work for G.S.H.I. Michael has a plethora of unfiled and poorly stacked papers. Pam and Barb have offered to assist Michael with organizing the multitude of historical papers. Karen B. pointed out that it will be important to categorize and label items in such a manner as to consider how someone might search for them in the future.

Michael reminded the group that Bill Hoffman and others in the Brantwood area are planning to celebrate Finland Centennial in 2017 with the 100th anniversary of the Independence of

Finland on June 17. G.S.H.I. had previously agreed to be included as one of organizations that sponsor and support the celebration of events being planned.

Michael showed a news article about Kevin Cullen utilizing ground penetrating radar technology that is capable of determining if there is a body or other remnants far underground. Since Kevin had previously offered his services and has the capability to do a ground search, Michael continues to remain hopeful of researching the possible remains of Father Menard along the bank of the Spirit River near G.S.H.I.

The nominating committee consisting of Karen B. and Dawn 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 Maryalice and Barb reaching the end of their current five year term at the end of 2016.

A workday was scheduled for October 17, 2016 beginning at 1:00 p.m. Work will consist of securing the Yesterday House for the winter, as well as repairing a few items such as the bed frame and caulking the southeast corner of the upstairs above the bed. Everyone available to volunteer for the afternoon is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Board signed a letter of thanks to be sent to Emily Pine for her continued support of G.S.H.I. Although she lives in Key West, Florida she is a steadfast attendee at the annual Barn Dance and consistently supports us with her generous donations.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 22, 2017 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.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Michael second by Toni at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier
Secretary
09-15-2016