

German Settlement History, Inc.
June 11, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 1:31 P.M.

Present at the meeting were Toni Meier, Mark Nyberg, Michael Meier, Pam Welch, Maryalice McHugh (via FaceTime), Karen Baumgartner, Gene Meier, Luann Lind and Dawn Meier. Absent and excused were Karen Johnson, Jesse Rhody and Marv Meier. Visitors in attendance included Beryl Nyberg, LaVonne Meier and Phil Resch.

Karen B. made a motion, seconded by Michael to accept the meeting agenda as presented. Motion was passed with unanimous approval.

The minutes of the March 19, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Gene made a motion, seconded by Mark to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

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

Michael reported to the Board on the status of the Archival Committee, which did not meet over the winter as originally planned. Michael continues to sort through his personal collection of books and papers in an attempt to make room for G.S.H.I. archival records.

Pam continues to document volunteer hours in the *Past Perfect* software program. Capturing the volunteer time that is donated annually to G.S.H.I. is important so that we are able to exhibit the collective investment of hours, especially if we were to apply for a grant.

Jesse and his son Will completed construction of the railing for the Yesterday House ramp. Toni volunteered to sand the edges of the wood, to prevent possible splinters by guests.

Repair work on the upstairs ceiling of the Yesterday House near the bed still needs to be completed. Luann will purchase caulk that can be used to fill the cracks. Gene welded the broken bed frame earlier this spring.

The gifted items report from 2016 was not yet available, but should be completed for the next meeting. One new item that was presented by the Nyberg family was a wooden booklet from Rodger Nyberg when he attended a 4H camp at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River, WI. In the 1940's (*secretary note – I forgot the year*).

The Board discussed our event insurance policy. For clarification of our coverage, it was requested that Toni contact the agent and invite him to our next meeting to give us an overview of the policy.

Tuesday July 25 beginning at 10:00 will be our next official workday to get things ready for the annual picnic/open house.

We discussed the overall success of the 13th Annual Barn Dance. It was estimated that over 300 people attended again this year. The expansion into the newest section of the haymow was a vast improvement; allowing a larger space for the silent auction items and giving people more room to move around. Nathan Lind built a second entrance/exit into the haymow and donated all of his labor. Michael made a motion, seconded by Gene to pay the full cost of the materials (\$317) for this 2nd doorway and stairs, rather than accept Luann and Daryl's generous offer to pay for half the cost of materials. Motion passed with majority approval with Luann abstaining. Improving the egress allows for a safer environment and provides easier access to the outdoors when needing to resupply such things as ice cream or lemonade. Luann also added improvements to the lighting and a large fan to provide better ventilation in the dance section.

The Board felt that the orientation of the silent auction tables worked well which allowed for easy maneuverability between sections and clear passage between the pie table and the dance floor. Next year it was suggested that we cut down on the quantity of pie and limit the number of flavors to three. It was suggested that we develop an alcohol free policy, as there were a few instances of people having to be talked to later in the evening about carry-ins.

As was done in the past, Karen B. volunteered to send Gary Edinger a \$50 gift card and thank you note for being an important part of the dance by teaching and calling square dance throughout the night. Pam passed around a certificate of appreciation that the Board members signed as a thank you for his DJing services, in spite of the fact that he had the flu and was not feeling well.

July 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. will be the Open House Picnic. Karen J. will take care of preparing the drinks. Michael will grill the brats and hot dogs. Mark and Pam will staff the registration table. Karen B. will serve as docent in the Yesterday House and Gene will do the same in the Machine Shed. Other Board members are encouraged to circulate throughout the property and provide relief to others where needed. Pam will advertise the event in the local newspapers and community calendars in an effort to spread the word better.

4th graders from Rib Lake School recently toured G.S.H.I. for a successful visit of the property. They were very polite and interested in learning about the history. Based on their thank you notes, some of the highlights of the visit included the Machine Shed, carrying water in pails using the yoke, using the treadle sewing machine and the treats of hot cocoa and cookies that Toni offered.

Karen B. participated in Heritage Days in Phillips on behalf of G.S.H.I. and she received a \$25 donation from the Fred Smith Heritage Days organization as a thank you.

Michael presented news from Price Electric Co-operative in which they will be announcing grant opportunities for 5013c non-profit organizations. G.S.H.I. will have a chance to write a grant to compete for the Unclaimed Capital Credits that are being distributed. Dawn and Maryalice volunteered to write the grant and Karen B. will assist in the review. Maryalice reminded us that the 1st President of Price Electric (Arthur Johnson) was born in the Yesterday House, so we could use that as an obvious connection.

A recent deed of gift by Don Hoffman was discussed, which included a box of Swedish bibles and other materials that were purchased at a consignment sale. The box of items originated from the Scandinavian Mission Covenant Church which was located at the intersection of Highway 86 and County Road YY. The building still stands and is currently used as a hunting camp.

On June 17 in the Town of Brantwood, Michael informed us that the festivities for the 100th anniversary of Finnish independence will be celebrated with Bill Hoffman displaying artwork, a Finnish meal followed by a comedy play at Palmquist Farm will be the highlights. Several members of the Board will be attending these events to show our support.

The next GSHI Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday September 17, 2017 beginning at 12:30 with a potluck lunch, immediately followed by the meeting.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Karen B. second by Toni at 2:15. Following the meeting, Board members toured the grounds looking at various landscaping and gardening improvements that should be made to the property. Keeping up with the weeding and maintenance of the flower beds has been challenging since Toni has been unable to contribute.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier

06-12-2017