

German Settlement History, Inc.
September 17, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 1:26 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Michael Meier, Karen Baumgartner, Toni Meier, Pam Welch, Maryalice McHugh via Facetime from Colorado, Marv Meier, Jesse Rhody, Luann Lind, Dawn Meier, Mark Nyberg and Gene Meier. Visitors included Jenny Mattson, Cheryl Pierson, Joleen Meier, LaVonne Meier, Marvin Arneson and Marie Arneson.

Karen J. made a motion, second by Karen B. to accept the agenda for the meeting as presented. Motion accepted with unanimous approval.

The minutes of the June 11, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Maryalice 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 Toni to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, second by Dawn with unanimous approval.

We reviewed the list of project reports and actions. 1) It was noted that major repairs to the interior upstairs floor and ceiling of the Yesterday House are imminent, but nothing is scheduled. 2) A complete listing of the 2016 donations made to G.S.H.I. has not yet been compiled, although the deed of gift paperwork has all been secured. Luann volunteered to assist Toni with generating a report for the next meeting. 3) Reviewing our current insurance policy with the agent has not yet been accomplished.

There was a lengthy discussion about our annual picnic held in July. Attendance increased from previous years, thanks to Pam generating some advertising in the local newspapers and reaching new people that did not otherwise know about us. Lots of folks enjoyed the beautiful day and were appreciative of our overall efforts to share our story. It was suggested that we continue to advertise the event in the future.

Michael provided an update regarding the Price Electric Cooperative Commitment to Community Charitable Donation Program, in which 8 organizations have already been awarded \$5,000 each from the Federated Youth Foundation funds. Maryalice, Karen B. and Dawn presented a draft proposal for the grant application that we wish to submit. One of the eligible qualifications of the grant is for the preservation of historical buildings, to which our focus is on *Our Yesterday House* for the repair of the upstairs ceiling and floor by a professional, along with hiring an arborist to daylight the building with sunshine and air to stop mold and other deterioration to the outside of the building by removing many of the trees growing nearby.

Toni and Michael informed the Board of their future personal plans which include moving to Oregon to be closer to their children within 2 or 3 years since their health has declined much quicker than expected. They are currently exploring ways to pay off their mortgage, whereby G.S.H.I. could assume full and legal ownership

of all four buildings on the property. Much discussion followed. The Board commended Toni and Michael on their forthrightness of the news and for being willing to give us advance notice to be able to plan and evaluate the various options available. Luann suggested that after we individually take a few weeks to consider the way forward, the Board should reconvene in a private meeting to review the financial commitments, discuss the options and to evaluate how this might affect our future.

A workday was scheduled for October 30 beginning at 9:30 a.m. to prepare the property for the winter. Since Karen B. and Karen J. consistently secure *Our Yesterday House* for the winter, the Board felt that cross training a few others who could become knowledgeable on the process would be beneficial. Karen B. is to be commended for her dedication and care of the fabrics and other delicate items on display. She takes great care in removing certain items each fall, bringing them home to be laundered or vacuumed to be ready in the spring when we open. Jenny and Dawn volunteered to provide assistance so as to learn what needs to be done each fall. Other tasks around the property include the horse buggy being pushed into the Machine Shed and some of the display cases covered and secured for the winter. Everyone available to volunteer is welcome and encouraged to attend. For the spring opening and clean-up, Maryalice suggested that we invite a local high school class or organization to come help as a community service project.

The issue of gardens around the property and landscaping was discussed. Due to several extenuating circumstances, flowerbeds, tree limbs and general weeding have gotten overgrown and somewhat unmanageable. Toni and Michael received one estimate from a local landscaping contractor earlier in the summer that proposed much more intensive work than what the Board feels we are able to afford. Michael invited Wayne Tlusty to visit the property, since he is a retired landscape architect and would be able to provide advice. Prior to the meeting Wayne, along with Luann, Michael and Karen J. walked through the property where Wayne noted some of the more critical items that should be addressed. Karen B. suggested that we request Wayne to develop a long-term landscape plan for the property. Marv noted that this is a complex matter since it is such a large area and with two overlapping ownerships it could be a challenging topic to resolve. There are several large trees near the buildings and powerlines that need to be dealt with by a professional arborist. After many viewpoints and angles to consider, Pam made a motion with a second by Toni to get an estimate from two professional tree removal companies, that we ask Wayne Tlusty if he would provide a written plan for the landscaping and that we bring the results to the January meeting for further evaluation and decision. Motion passed unanimously. Michael volunteered to get the estimated from two arborists, plus he will ask Price Electric if they are able to remove any of the trees near the powerlines as part of their maintenance schedule. Karen B. made a motion, with a second by Toni that offer to pay Wayne to develop a written long-term landscape plan for the property. Motion passed unanimously.

Michael asked the Board if we feel strongly about having the building treated for Asian beetles and flies this fall. It was agreed that, having an annual treatment to the buildings seems to be significantly eliminating the pest problem. Pam made a motion, with a second by Karen B. to have a professional spray all the buildings. Motion passed unanimously.

The agenda included a topic for discussion regarding hiring a Gardener to regularly maintain the property. Due to this topic being somewhat fluid, we agreed to table further discussion until a later meeting.

Michael informed us that Herb Magnuson would like to donate two loads of black dirt to G.S.H.I. Karen B. made a motion, 2nd by Jesse to accept the free dirt and to pay Meier Farms and Trucking (or someone else) for the transport costs. Motion passed unanimously.

Luann inquired about the G.S.H.I. computer and whether the data is regularly backed-up. Both Pam and Toni independently back-up the files onto thumb drives, with Pam securing her storage unit in town at the office. Due to theft, fire or other damage the computer could be subjected to, Luann was concerned that the back-up files are stored separately. She will also research utilizing various 'cloud' back-up systems.

The nominating committee consisting of Pam and Gene have generated interest in two new candidates for the Board of Directors – Jenny Mattson and Cheryl Pierson who both attended the meeting. Board members each serve a five year term, with Marv and Jesse reaching the end of their current five year term at the end of 2017. Pam will work on the letter and send ballots to our members by the first part of December.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 28, 2018 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 and is our annual meeting that is open to the public.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Karen B. second by Marv at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier
Secretary
09-19-2017