

**German Settlement History, Inc.**  
**January 28, 2018 Annual Board Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 1:30P.M.

Present at the meeting were Maryalice McHugh, Toni Meier, Gene Meier, Jesse Rhody, Pam Welch, Karen Johnson, Michael Meier, Karen Baumgartner, Mark Nyberg, Luann Lind, and Dawn Meier. Marv Meier was absent and excused. Guests included Jenny Mattson, Cheryl Pierson, Phil Resch, Darrel Lind, Marie Arneson, LaVonne Meier, Pat Swenson and Clare Meier.

Maryalice made a motion, seconded by Karen J. to approve the meeting agenda as presented, with unanimous approval.

The minutes of the September 17, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Mark made a motion, seconded by Pam to accept the minutes as presented with unanimous approval.

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

The first order of business was an update from Luann who presented the Gifted Items Report from 2015 to the present. There are still multiple items that have not had the proper Deed of Gift form completed, but a system is in place to make it fairly simple for anyone to execute the necessary paperwork for G.S.H.I. to accept donated items from the public.

Volunteer hours continue to be tracked and recorded into the *Past Perfect* database by Pam, who continues to assist with the administrative duties of the organization, in lieu of performing manual labor. Any hours contributed outside of organized events should be given to Pam for recording. Volunteer contributions are important to be documented as they are often needed when submitting a grant funding request.

On behalf of the G.S.H.I. organization, Karen B. recently accepted a \$5,000 check from Price Electric Co-operative. The money currently being distributed to non-profit organizations by Price Electric is from capital credits or dividends that are owed to former members that are unable to be located. G.H.S.I. submitted a grant request, focusing on the repair and maintenance of *Our Yesterday House* with plans to invest this money into the stabilization of the upstairs interior of the building.

For more than a year we have had concern about our liability insurance policy, so Luann followed up and spoke to someone from Johnson Insurance who is affiliated with Acuity Insurance. After speaking with the company representative, Luann discovered that our policy is not the correct coverage for our organization. She also reached out to Jason from Klinner Insurance in Medford for advice. After much discussion, Maryalice made a motion to transfer

the policy to Klinner Insurance and have Darrel and Luann added to the policy as additional insured in order for them to be covered in the event of an incident involving the annual Barn Dance which is held on their property.

Maryalice presented some of the recent statistics regarding the power of social media to advertise the G.S.H.I. organization. With Facebook alone, there are roughly 3,000 people who are engaged with the G.S.H.I. page on a weekly basis. Posting historical photographs from our archives on a regular basis has spurred a wide base of support and interest from people all across the world and opened a dialogue amongst historians, genealogists and people with roots in the Spirit area.

There was discussion focusing on critical repair of *Our Yesterday House* specifically on the upstairs ceiling boards above the bed as well as the floor underneath the bed which needs vital work done to shore up the large cracks. Karen B. volunteered to start researching the necessary requirements for making repairs to a structure that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Gene and Jesse will write a description of the issues and measure the dimensions of the critical work, so that someone not familiar with the facility could understand the need and recommend mitigation actions.

Michael reminded us about the landscaping proposal with detailed notes he received from Wayne Tlusty (local retired landscape architect) who critiqued the property last fall. Maryalice made a motion that we table the landscaping proposal for a later date, with a second from Pam. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Luann explained that the Board of Directors had been working on issues that could greatly impact the way G.S.H.I. continues as an organization. Due to a number of personal factors, Michael and Toni notified the Executive Committee in June that they are making plans to permanently relocate to the State of Oregon within the next 2 years. Two separate closed door meetings were held with the Board of Directors to determine what our path forward would be. Currently G.S.H.I. owns *Our Yesterday House* and the Machine Shed and Michael and Toni own the 1.5 acres of land where the buildings reside, plus Liberty School and the red pole building/garage. After critically analyzing the financial and long term requirements, it was decided that even if G.S.H.I. became the un-encumbered owner of the land and all buildings, we as an organization do not have the means to cover the full liability including property taxes, utilities, insurance, repair, maintenance and daily oversight of the property.

As a result of the Board of Directors meetings to discuss our future, Luann volunteered to approach the Town of Spirit Town Board to ask if they would consider allowing G.S.H.I. to relocate *Our Yesterday House* and the Machine Shed to Town of Spirit property. The first proposal that was presented was relocating our two buildings to the Town Hall parcel on Highway 86 which would provide good visibility and allow G.S.H.I. to sponsor docents during regularly scheduled public events held at the Town Hall. Another alternative was to relocate the buildings to The Spirit Memorial Park, although due to remoteness of this location, we had

concerns about vandalism and visibility. Following the December 12 and January 9 Town Board meetings, The Town of Spirit Board decided to send a letter to all Spirit residents, inviting them to a special meeting on February 13 to discuss this proposal further. Maryalice made and motion, with a second by Pam to reimburse the Town of Spirit for the postage of the mailing announcing the meeting. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Besides the idea of relocating the buildings to Town of Spirit property, Jenny and Brian Mattson offered to donate a parcel of their property located along County YY to G.S.H.I. to house the buildings. And LaVonne Meier also offered that she would donate a small parcel of property near the intersection of Highway 86 and River Road to G.S.H.I. for the purpose of relocating the buildings. Michael suggested that regardless of which option the Board chose, we may want to change our name to be more inclusive of the broader Town of Spirit or the former Town of Brannan which originally included the Towns of Hill and Spirit.

With G.S.H.I. acquiring an extensive inventory of archival materials, it will be important to choose the option that provides the best outcome for the future. Considering our statistics from Facebook, G.S.H.I. member list, attendance at our annual Barn Dance, and some 500 names on the Liberty School News mailing list, we need to continue to evaluate and seek the best alternative which will provide good visibility and long-term exposure for future operations.

The nominating committee consisting of Pam and Gene counted the ballots for the two open seats on the Board of Directors. Since there were no write-in votes or discrepancies to the total ballots that were returned, Maryalice made a motion to accept the results of the election with a second by Dawn to elect Jenny Mattson and Cheryl Pierson each to a five year term. The motion received unanimous approval. This year marks the end of Marv Meier and Jesse Rhody's terms on the Board.

For next year, the nominating committee will be Mark and Maryalice with Karen J. and Luann coming to the end of their five year terms.

We reviewed the calendar of events for 2018 and confirmed that the Barn Dance will be held on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> and the Friends of Liberty School Picnic & Open House will be July 28<sup>th</sup>.

The next G.S.H.I. Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 11, 2018 following a 12:30 potluck lunch.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Maryalice, and a second by Gene with unanimous approval at 3:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Meier  
Secretary  
03-11-2018

**German Settlement History, Inc.**  
**January 28, 2018 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 Executive Committee:

Maryalice made a motion with a second by Mark to cast an unanimous ballot of officers to the Executive Committee which included Luann Lind as G.S.H.I. President, Karen Baumgartner as G.S.H.I. Vice President, Pam Welch as G.S.H.I. Treasurer and Dawn Meier as G.S.H.I. Secretary each for a one year term. Michael made a motion, with a second by Karen J. to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for the elected officials with unanimous approval from the Board of Directors.

Pam 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 Maryalice with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier  
Secretary  
02-19-2018