

**German Settlement History, Inc.**  
**July 22, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**

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

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

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

The minutes of the March 11, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Maryalice made a motion, seconded by Toni 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.

Luann thanked the Board of Directors for their gift of flowers as a result of her recent and unexpected stay in the hospital. The Board is happy and relieved to have her back at nearly full capacity after a medical scare. For the short term, she is wearing a heart monitor that will allow the doctors to determine their next course of action.

Pam reminded everyone to submit volunteer hours when providing service to the organization beyond any pre-scheduled meetings or work days, since she captures those hours automatically.

Repair work on the upstairs ceiling and floor of the Yesterday House near the bed still needs to be completed. The southeast corner of the building has large cracks that need to be filled. Caulk was purchased last year but wasn't used due to the lack of information on whether or not it could be used on a building on the Register. More information was obtained and with board approval, we will now move forward with caulking the outside. Karen B. also mentioned a concern about recent insect activity in the southeast corner of the kitchen. Due to signs of sawdust, we suspect carpenter ants may be active.

Darrel Lind presented a report from recent Spirit Town Board meetings where they discussed options for G.S.H.I. re-locating our buildings to town property. It was determined that we would need to stay at least 50 feet away from the road right-of-way. If relocating to Town property, the town would keep the grass mowed regularly. G.S.H.I. would be responsible for landscaping, insurance, moving expenses and any necessary clean-up which would all need to be documented in a signed agreement. They also stipulated that if the Machine Shed has a poured cement floor, we should to plan for the possibility of electricity being installed in the future without having to damage the foundation. In general, the Town Board is quite supportive about a potential re-location. At the meeting Jenny attended, there was discuss about the need for a bond and consideration of a 99 year lease. Prior to deciding the re-location, we will need to consult with a lawyer to ensure that all documentation and legal papers are processed appropriately. Luann feels that the next step would be to research the cost estimates to actually move the buildings to the various locations that have been offered. Although the Spirit Town Hall property seems to be the most desirable in terms of visibility, public meeting and bathroom facilities and the ability to host visitors during regular public events (Memorial Day, 4-H Fair, etc.) we recognize that it is also the furthest distance, which could be cost prohibitive when hiring a moving company to re-locate the buildings. Karen B. will check with Janet Seymour of the WI Historical Society to give us advice about our options, especially due to the fact that The Yesterday House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places there may be restrictions that need to be considered.

Regarding the Machine Shed, it seems uncertain whether it would be cheaper to construct a new building at a different location or dismantle the current building and reassemble. If we decide to relocate to another property, Henry Mast (original builder) should be consulted about the cost options and feasibility. Luann will research options for moving the buildings. Gene suggested a possible fifth option that hadn't already been considered which would seem to be the least disruptive. If we could purchase a small piece of land just to the south of the Machine Shed, we could re-locate The Yesterday House away from Toni & Michael's property and keep the Machine Shed intact.

Maryalice presented research regarding saving our data to the cloud. Using Google drive is one option since they offer 15 gigabytes of data storage free to anyone with a Google account. Also, Luann reminded us that she uses an external hard drive when she scans historical photos and is also uploading them into *Past Perfect*. Since the G.S.H.I. computer, our external hard drive, the original photographs and Pam's computer are all stored at different physical locations, we automatically have our own back-up system.

At least 48 Rib Lake 4<sup>th</sup> graders plus teachers, parents and bus drivers enjoyed a field trip to German Settlement History. Karen B., Jenny, Gene, Michael, Toni and Joan Magnuson served as docents and tour guides. They received lots of compliments from the group and everyone was impressed with the visit.

Luann provided an update on our insurance policy. Klinner Insurance of Medford will assume coverage on November 6, 2018 at which time the current policy expires. Darrel and Luann will be included on the new policy which will include personal liability during the Barn Dance. Previously, any claims as a result of the Barn Dance could have gone against their personal property to cover damages.

A change of our organizations name and mailing address was discussed as a way to help expand our reach beyond the German Settlement. Many people within southeastern Price County do not feel connected to the organization since the name implies a very specific location. Michael made a motion, which was seconded by Gene to officially change our name to Spirit Historical Society, Incorporated. Motion passed unanimously. Maryalice then made a motion, seconded by Jenny with unanimous approval to officially change our address to a Post Office Box in Ogema. Pam will rent the Post Office box.

Mark, Maryalice and Pam were on the Bylaws Committee and have reviewed the current bylaws. They noted several errors and corrections. Specifically Section 7 and 8 which talks about affiliation with WI Historical Society which was never done. There was a question about the process to update our bylaws. During this meeting we proposed to remove Section 7 and 8 and we will vote on this change at the next meeting. In the meantime, Pam and Maryalice will edit the bylaws to include our new name and renumbering the sections to eliminate 7 and 8.

We briefly discussed the results of the 14th Annual Barn Dance. Overall, it was a success especially considering that attendance was reduced from previous years, perhaps due to the weather being so hot. Karen B. will once again send Gary Edinger a thank you note and gift certificate on our behalf for his contributions with Square Dance calling throughout the dance.

The silent auction proceeds were lower than expected although we received an increase in door donations over past years. Pam raised a concern about the quality of auction items and having too many low value items. For next year, she suggested switching things up with fewer but higher quality items and offering more food items and gift certificates since they seem to generate more interest. LaVonne suggested selling bags of kettle corn or having a bake sale instead of other types of donated items.

Our organization currently has almost 2,000 historical photographs of the Spirit and surrounding areas. All of these are scanned and currently saved on computer and the hard drive. Luann is working at cataloging each photo which includes specific details of each photo that makes them searchable. This information is being put into the *Past Perfect* program. At this time 377 photos have been cataloged and entered. For example, when

Liberty School is included in the name of the file, every photo with Liberty School can quickly be retrieved using the search feature in *Past Perfect*.

We have made use of a program called 'Any Desk' to facilitate the use of the G.S.H.I. computer from a remote source. This will be used by certain board members rather than having the computer traveling from home to home. Since we are accumulating multiple usernames and passwords for the various systems that we utilize, Pam will gather them all for safe keeping.

Our Open House/Picnic will be Saturday July 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Karen B. will serve as docent in the Yesterday House and Gene will host the Machine Shed. Karen J. has volunteered to provide the lemonade. Mark will staff the registration table. Toni's grandson Scott will grill brats and hot dogs. Other Board members are encouraged to circulate throughout the property and offer assistance where needed. Pam has advertised the event in the local newspapers to encourage new people to attend. Karen B. borrowed two educational banners from the Forest History Association that will be on display in Liberty School.

In consultation with Michael, Luann will transition into the new editor of the Liberty School News beginning with the next edition. Due to the proposed name change of our organization, Liberty School News will likely change names too. Maryalice reminded us that we need to wait for the official acceptance of our new name by the State of WI and also have notified the IRS before updating our website, Facebook page, and any other documents. However, we can begin immediately referencing our P.O. Box as the new address.

The next GSHI Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday September 9, 2018 beginning at 12:30 with a potluck lunch, immediately followed by the meeting.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Pam second by Toni at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier

09-08-2018