

German Settlement History, Inc.
March 11, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Luann Lind at 1:40 P.M.

Present at the meeting were Cheryl Pierson, Jenny Mattson, Toni Meier, Pam Welch, Mark Nyberg, Michael Meier, Karen Baumgartner, Gene Meier, Luann Lind, Maryalice McHugh (via FaceTime) and Dawn Meier with Karen Johnson absent and excused. Visitors included Pat Swenson, Phil Resch, LaVonne Meier and Marv Meier.

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

The minutes of the January 28, 2018 annual meeting were reviewed. There were slight corrections to the draft minutes that were noted (the Executive Committee originally met with Toni & Michael in June not November, 2017 and one grammar improvement) Pam made a motion, seconded by Toni to accept the minutes as corrected with unanimous approval.

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

Pam continues to record volunteer hours in *Past Perfect*. Scheduled workdays, planned events and quarterly meetings are automatically captured, but individuals need to turn in other hours that are contributed independently to G.S.H.I. as Pam will not know of those specific details. The consolidated volunteer hours are used when applying for grants to show the personal investment of the organization.

Since the January meeting, Karen B. contacted Janet Seymour who serves as the northern District Representative of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Karen B. shared that repairs and maintenance to the outside of the building is much more particular than the inside, regarding the prestige of the National Register of Historical Places. Regarding the issues in the upstairs with the 'spongy' floor in the southeast corner and the ceiling above the bed that is rotten, we are able to utilize new wood and make it look distressed through a treatment that gives it an old look. Jesse and Gene will investigate the full extent of the damage prior to our next meeting, so that we can determine the path forward. LaVonne offered that she may have some wains coating lumber in her shed that would be suitable for the repairs.

Luann provided an update of the recent Town of Spirit Board meetings that discussed the possibility of G.S.H.I. relocating *Our Yesterday House* and the Machine Shed to town property near the Spirit Town Hall along Highway 86. A special meeting that was held prior to the regular Spirit Town Board meeting was attended by some 20 private citizens, besides most of the G.S.H.I. Board members. There were a number of questions raised and discussed. In the end, the Spirit Town Board voted to offer a location for us if we so chose, with the understanding that a legal agreement would need to be executed. In the meantime the Spirit Town Board is researching other public properties around the area to determine what type of agreement they have for similar arrangements. In addition to the Town of Spirit, we have three other offers from private residents that have come forward to donate land to G.S.H.I. for our future location. Besides Brian and Jenny Mattson property which is along County YY just to the east of our current location, LaVonne Meier property which is at the intersection of Highway 86 and River Road, Leigh Marheine has offered property that is along Highway 86, directly across from the former Wilson School. Determining the best location for our permanent home will require analysis of the various options, as each of them appears to have their pros and cons.

Luann made the suggestion that G.S.H.I. should have at least one representative that attends the Spirit Town Board meeting when the topic of relocating our buildings onto their property is on the agenda. Since there were no eager, willing volunteers, Pam suggested that it should be a rotating duty with two people assigned to attend a meeting

and have a staggered rotation so that at least one person from the prior meeting would be at the next meeting. Pam and Dawn volunteered to be the first pair to attend the next Spirit Town Board meeting when the topic is included on the agenda.

With a new permanent location, likely to be beyond the German Settlement, we feel a need to change our name to be more inclusive of the broader Spirit area. Everyone is encouraged to brainstorm ideas, some of which that were suggested include the name Spirit or Brannan in the title. Perhaps we will have a name contest at the Barn Dance. There is some urgency at determining the new name so that we can begin changing our permanent physical address which should also include a P.O. Box for mail purposes. Maryalice and Karen B. will research the legal requirements of a name change as well as registering the new name and updating the registered agent who is currently listed as Toni.

There was some discussion about the need for us to store our electronic files 'in the cloud' so that in the unfortunate event something happened to our computer or back-up files, there would still be a place where everything is stored. Google Drive may be the preferred system for G.S.H.I. since several people already have Gmail accounts – which is required to log into the system. Pam has been backing up the *Past Perfect* program, but this additional layer would allow Maryalice and others to access our files from other physical locations.

Mark, Maryalice and Pam volunteered to review our By-Laws to determine the guiding principles that may need to be adhered to during this transition or suggesting improvements that could be made.

Specific Barn Dance Committee assignments leading up to our May 27, 2018 event were reviewed by Luann. Volunteer assignments are similar to past years. Set-up will be on Saturday May 26 @ 10:00, with an emphasis on needing many strong volunteers the first half hour to handle the heavy furniture. Luann will provide a detailed list of specific assignments for everyone. This year's fundraising effort will be focused on preparing to move to a new permanent location for *Our Yesterday House* and the Machine Shed.

July 28, 2018 from 11:00 – 3:00 we will host the Friends of G.S.H.I. Picnic. Pam and Dawn will initiate selective advertising for the event, similar to what is done for the Barn Dance in order to generate more interest and better notify the public about this annual event.

We will again invite the Rib Lake 4th graders to visit G.S.H.I. in early May for a field trip. As in previous years, Gene would be the docent for the Machine Shed and Karen B. would be the docent for *Our Yesterday House*. Others are welcome and encouraged to assist.

Marv was presented a certificate of appreciation from the Board of Directors for his many faithful years of service providing leadership to the G.S.H.I.. As one of the founding members, Marv consistently helped to develop our strong foundation for a successful and highly respected organization. He will greatly missed as a key member of the Board. Jesse Rhody was not in attendance, but will also be given a certificate of appreciation. Although both these individuals were replaced by new Board members during the last election, their wisdom and contributions will continue to be welcomed and appreciated as we move forward.

The next GSHI Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday June 24, 2018 immediately following a 12:30 potluck lunch at Liberty School.

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Karen B. second by Toni at 3:24 P.M. with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Meier
Secretary
06-21-2018