

WARREN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

March 16, 2022 Research Center

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** 6:05 pm
- II. ROLL CALL:** Sue Keffer, Chris Werner, David Rent, Madelyn Zamora Excused absences: Becky Hetchler, and Puja Deb who explained to Sue that she cannot attend meetings as she works.
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Accepted with 2 additions. Motion by Chris, seconded by David. Motion passed.
- IV. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Accepted with 0 corrections. Motion by David, seconded by Chris. Motion passed.
- V. REPORTS**
 - A. Chairman:**
 - i. Collections:** Sue stated that Society members sorted some collection items that had been put aside for decisions to retain or not retain. Chris began a discussion as to the retention of meeting minutes of other commissions as the Beautification Commission has donated cartons of their records to us. Sue also has donations at home to bring to office.
 - B. Treasurer:**
 - i. Treasurer's Report:** Becky was absent but Madelyn reviewed a report Becky had left along with the March Purchase Order Status and Financial Reports. \$8626.31. Motion by Chris to receive and file, seconded by David. All agreed.
 - ii. Budget:** Sue and Chris attended the budget meeting with the Mayor. Sue discussed our need for more space, our concerns about moisture harming collections due to being so close to the pool, climate control etc. The Mayor asked if the museum could be in the new downtown. Storage space might be even harder to accommodate if that happened. Chris explained that exhibits only comprise approx. 10% of space needs. In addition to more storage space, we need work space for sorting, scanning, proper accessioning, cleaning, wrapping etc. The question was asked as to why our budget request was higher this year. Chris explained the need to remove collections to a rented space so that we can reorganize the space we now have, the rise in cost for glass cleaning of kiosks etc. We are attempting to do an inventory at this time. The space we were given for storage upstairs is too hot for most of our collections. Chris also told the Mayor that he would like to organize a field trip to Grand Rapids to see their museum and how it is organized and gain insight that we could use at our gallery and research center. The budget request was Okayed before Sue and Chris left the meeting.
 - C. Secretary:**
 - i. Correspondence:** Madelyn reported on the Mich. Historic Preservation Network meeting in Holly from May 11-14. The program is entitled "Our Town" and will focus on small historic districts. Sue stated that a census should be done on Warren's historic sites. This has been brought up more than once to the city previously but never done.
 - D. i. Publicity/Facebook – WH&GS:** Sue stated that Karen received a picture from a user that we will try to identify per their request.
 - E. Warren Historical & Genealogical Society:**
 - i. Bunert Schoolhouse:** Chris had a phone conversation with a rep of the remediation company where the Bunert furnishings are stored. They need the space and would like our items out. She informed Chris that the agreement was that they would accept whatever we received from the insurance company for storage (\$12,900) and we won't receive further bills. This is great news. David reported that the moisture content

of the floor is to be checked, the duct work is in, furnace ready to remove, and the new one should be in by the end of the week. Matt told David the plumber will be out soon. The monitor system talks to you now. All work underneath the schoolhouse is done. Sliders will have to be put back on bottoms of desks, the old ones if useable, or new ones. To avoid scratching the floor, large pieces of cardboard will be needed until that is done. **a. Fundraiser** – Nothing new at this time. **b.**

Website Update: Chris will be working on the site.

F. Village Commission: Becky and Madelyn attended the March VHDC meeting. They are waiting for better weather to install the roof at the Village Hall. Jo Alter is reviewing other cities' guidelines re interiors of homes. Old-style lighting is being considered for Flynn St. Each light costs approx. \$15K. A resident has a neighbor parking 7-8 employees' cars per day on a front lawn; the workers are trucked to job sites for the day. The VHDC will look into rules re parking.

G. MCHA Report: Nothing new on MCHA. Chris proposed hosting the May 11 Michigan Museum Assoc. workshop on Exhibit Labels. The workshop would include a meeting, possibly in Conf. Rm. A, and visit to the gallery. Workshop ideas include: 1) select a kiosk and suggest a redesign possibly using a wall in the office to produce a mock-up of the design; 2) Design a hallway display i.e. an interesting juxtaposition of names using William Burt, surveyor and 1835 inventor of the solar compass, and Burt Williams, pre-eminent entertainer of the Vaudeville era and one of the most popular comedians of his time; he was the first black man to have a leading role in a film; or 3) take a field trip to Bunert Museum and ask for assistance in compiling the history of the schoolhouse.

H. Council of Commissions: Chris reported that there will be an April meeting and the Appreciation Dinner in May.

VI. HISTORICAL GALLERY & RESEARCH CENTER:

A. Museum: i. Reentry: Nothing new on this. **ii:** David informed us that the new SD Cards are in and all kiosk speakers are functional. **iii:** Chris received a call from a woman at the State of Michigan re plans to create a digitization hub where museums could bring objects that need digitization. Each group would do the work themselves and then remove the items.

B. Hall Display: Madelyn will take the Jeopardy window down.

C. Research Center: Work continues on organizing the storage area. David has glued together the tubes that hold rolled posters, photographs etc. This will greatly ease storage and retrieval of these materials.

VII. OLD BUSINESS: A. Historical Marker: Nothing new at this time. Sue stressed that we need to place a marker soon as citizens appreciate the markers and enjoy learning the history of the sites.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS: A. Puja Deb: Sue contacted member Puja Deb who informed Sue that she cannot attend meetings because she works. Sue will send her a copy of the bylaws that state that if a member misses 3 meetings without an approved excuse, she may be removed from the commission.

IX. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Wed. April 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (unless otherwise notified) at the Research Center.

X. OPEN DISCUSSION: Chris will contact the woman who conducted the taxidermy seminar to ask about proper storage of hides once they've been cleaned.**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm. Motion by Madelyn; seconded by Sue. All agreed.