

EL CERRITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES APRIL 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Bartke

Present: Barbara Hill, Tom Panas, David Weinstein, Rich Bartke, Joanne Rubio

Absent: Debbie Weeks

The Minutes of the March 18, 2014 Board Meeting were approved as submitted.

Pioneer Reception - Wednesday, April 23rd - 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Plans are in place for this event led by Joanne and Tom. Louise and Dale Perry will be purchasing food and beverages. Joanne will be interviewing each pioneer and writing a 2-page bio. She is also organizing how things will be set up, selecting big band music to be playing in the background and possibly arranging to have a 1930 Ford Model A to be parked at City Hall for all to enjoy. Tom will have DVD's ready for Suzanne to play on three screens. Barbara will be able to attend and help with set up for the event. We will need more chairs than usual because of the limitations of our guests. Tom and Joanne will welcome the pioneers. Tom will prepare and present a certificate to each pioneer as he introduces them and says a few words about each one. We expect about 50 people. This includes family, friends and others who are just interested in meeting our "pioneers".

Future Events

David is working on ideas for future events.

Model of the Castro Adobe

The Board discussed having Charlie Moran build a model of the Castro Adobe as it was around 1860. This is after the second story was put on. The Board discussed several places it might be displayed: in the glass case of the Shadi Room; outside the Shadi room perhaps where the bench is now or elsewhere in City Hall. Tom will ask Karen Pinkos about this possibility. Mr. Moran will just charge us for materials and donate his time to build the model. Joanne and Tom have been working on gathering many documents/photos from as many resources as possible to estimate the size and details of the main 3 buildings as well as the layout of the adobe site.

Hillside Festival - Saturday, May 17th

There will be a map and schedule for the event. Richard Schwartz will be at Regency Court. His talk will begin at 11:00 a.m. Tom and Barbara will be at our Historical Society booth at the top of the eucalyptus grove, just down from the end of King Court. At 11:30 Tom will be talking about the general development of our area. Rich will talk about history of parks in El Cerrito. His walk and talk will start from the Schmidt Lane entrance and run from 10:30 a.m. until about 11:30.

Chris Treadway will help publicize the event and Trail Trekkers will put up posters.

All the groups are raising funds for the "El Cerrito Open Space Campaign". A notice will be sent to the ECHS list inviting members to participate.

The Forge and Sparks

Sparks - Rich will start writing Sparks at the beginning of May. It will include an announcement about the Trail Trekkers "Hillside Festival" on May 17th.

The Forge - Rich will expand his "El Cerrito Parks" article for The Forge. He may include information about the Forrest Brown Trail and Memorial Grove.

Donations

El Cerrito High "Rapid Transit" poster-a play written by El Cerrito High School. (David W.) The poster says it is a "world premiere" play.

Lu Watters - 4 records and 2 cd's (J. Rubio & D/L. Perry) Joanne will copy the text on the back before donating it. Barbara will start a file for Lu Watters. Tom will turn the text on the back of the records into digital format. Lu Watters owned Hambone Kelly on San Pablo Avenue from 1948-1951. He played trumpet in his Dixieland Jazz band and was a chef at his restaurant/lounge also.

Matchbox and Wooden Matches from Narsai's Restaurant - (B. Hill)

The matchbox is in pristine condition. Narsai David was a chef and owner of the restaurant on Colusa Circle in Arlington. He was a pioneer of California Cuisine. The Restaurant closed in 1985.

Brooks Island

Joanne and Barbara continue to search for the brief story of the Gargurevich family who lived on Brooks Island. Barbara has suggested contacting the author of the article in the Bay Nature magazine that mentions the "history".

Curators Meeting

Barbara was unable to attend the recent meeting of Contra Costa Curators. Next time she goes she will ask the other curators about keeping the matches from Narsai's Restaurant at the Shadi Room. At this time the Board feels it is fine.

Robert Coleman

David W. brought an obituary for Robert Coleman, mathematician and Nobel Prize winner. This will be filed at the Shadi Room.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Tom passed out a proposed "Conflict of Interest Policy" for the ECHS. The Board agreed to study it before the next meeting. We will wait and discuss this in person at the next meeting instead of having e-mail conversations about it. This document is based on several different sources.

Membership Report

*126 members as of the end of March 2014

88 household members

15 supporting members

23 life members

*103 who pay every year (88 + 15)

*27 have paid for this year

*3 new members

Tom will send out the notices this week.

Meeting Adjourned

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Minutes submitted by J. Rubio, Secretary