

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EL CERRITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 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 January 21, 2014 Board Meeting were approved as submitted.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 25, 2014 were approved, subject to adding Board Members' names to the "Election" section of the minutes.

Topics Discussed

Sparks and The Forge

Sparks will be written by Rich. Board members will send items to him to be included in Sparks. Tom will edit the final draft before Sparks is sent out.

The next Forge will be written by Barbara about John Marsh, using the 1882 Contra Costa County History book as a reference as well as other material. The Forge needs to be ready for Tom's review in two weeks, to get it out before our next event on March 25th.

Membership Communication

Rich will talk with Joann Steck-Bayat about continuing to send out the membership communication using our new G-mail account that Tom is configuring with the Society's e-mail list.

Programs

Marsh House State Historical Park people will come to El Cerrito on Tuesday, March 25th. The event will be at the Arlington Park Clubhouse at 7:00 p.m in El Cerrito. The flyer for the Marsh event that David has prepared will be sent out as soon as possible. We will need to set up the 50 chairs that are at the clubhouse. Tom will bring a screen. The presenter is hoping we will provide some easels to use for display.

Model of Cerrito Theater

There has been a suggestion that the model of the Cerrito Theater be kept at the Shadi Room. It is quite large. David will get the measurements. The Board will make a decision on this at a future meeting.

Honor Pioneers of El Cerrito

It was agreed on to find a date in April or May to honor our El Cerrito Pioneers. This would be in the form of a reception. Tom thinks Suzanne Iarla, would like to hold this event at City Hall. We would honor those who are over 90 who were born in El Cerrito and are current residents of El Cerrito. It would be one of our events for the Spring.

Chamber of Commerce Materials

Tom has a box of materials for the Society that were given to him by Pat and Ken Berndt. They are about 30-40 years old. He is planning to meet with Ken to identify some of the people in the photos.

Brooks Island

Joanne is researching the background of Brooks Island, which was originally part of the Rancho San Pablo. Barbara volunteered to help her locate a 1965 brief history written by a member of the family that lived on the island in the 1880's.

California Preservation Conference

David is planning to attend this conference being held in Asilomar.

Suggestions for Historical Society Activities

This was a “brainstorming” session to come up with ideas for things the Historical Society could be doing. At the next Board meeting we will have further discussion to prioritize the ideas or keep them for future consideration:

Naming of Creeks in El Cerrito

After some discussion, it was decided that Joanne will send Rich information she has gathered about how Baxter Creek may have gotten its name. The Friends of Five Creeks are the focal point for creeks in El Cerrito. Further discussion of the subject may not be the best use of our time. The former “Friends of Baxter Creek” is no longer active.

Oral Histories

It was agreed that gathering oral histories is a great idea. There were many suggestions as to how to go about this. We will discuss this further.

Increase our collections

We suggest on our website that folks in the community let us know about any materials they may have to donate to the Historical Society. We will discuss this further to generate other ideas as to how to increase our collection.

Museum/Storage

Having a museum would be wonderful, but raising the money needed to acquire a site or remodel a site would take a huge effort. The Veterans’ Hall has been suggested but the estimate to remodel that building would be over \$200,000. We discussed storing items off-site, which would also be an extra cost every time you want to access it. We agreed to keep thinking about this but not pursue this idea at this time.

Attract Younger Members

Walking Tour Brochure - Get this in the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall and the Library

Volunteer Speakers - Speakers could go to school classes, scouts and other organizations

Living History Day - Opportunity for families with children to participate in hands-on history day

“Trunks” for Organizations to Borrow - These would be organized by history themes relevant to our area. Joanne will borrow one from a museum to show the Board at a future meeting.

100th City Anniversary - See how we might be able to participate in this event.

Hillside Festival - May 17th

David invited the Historical Society to participate in the Trail Trekkers event in May. More details will be coming.

Meeting Adjourned

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2014 - 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Joanne Rubio, Secretary

