

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Meeting September 17, 2019

Present: Board members: Chris Horn, Tom Panas, Chris Treadway, Pat Shaw, Joanne Rubio, John Falconer. Also general member Dianne Brenner

Absent: David Weinstein, Chris Sterba, Ed Crowley

1. Review of minutes: Pat commented that it would be useful to have the minutes report the balance of unrestricted funds, instead of just the bank balance. Joanne suggested that both should be reported. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously, so that both balances will be reported in meeting minutes going forward.
2. Treasurer's Report: Pat distributed print copies of her Financial Report. She reported income of \$25 and expenses totaling \$177.05. The Unrestricted Funds balance is \$12,247.21 and the overall bank balance is \$17,747.21
3. Public Comment: Chris T. reported the donation of several items: a token from the El Cerrito Athletic Club; an invitation to the opening of the Hollywood Club (204 San Pablo Ave.); and a video of the Rancho San Pablo, shot in 1938-39.
4. Creedence Clearwater Revival events and exhibit:
 - a. The exhibit, at City Hall upstairs gallery, will be hung on October 2. The published dates for the exhibit are October 7 – 25.
 - b. The reception is October 11, 7:00 – 8:30 pm at City Hall. We will probably want to have a table, with sign-in sheets, etc.
 - c. The talk/presentation is October 13 at 2 pm at the Community Center in the large room. Board members are encouraged to arrive early to help setup. We will have a table with sign-up sheets and other information. Tom P., will staff the table first, until 2:30. Then Pat will take over.
 - d. The Board previously approved spending up to \$700 on the cost of the display panels. EC Historical Society will then own the panels and keep them.
5. Senior Resource Fair: October 2. Dianne and Pat will staff the info table there. It's at the Community Center from 9:30 am to 1 pm. Pat will collect the necessary materials and provide to Dianne to set up.

6. Pioneer Event: Joanne has completed the updates to the Pioneer form, and copies are available. Joanne asked to have the form sent to our members, as an email (not an attachment), and this was agreed. Joanne would like the form distributed ASAP. To whom and when can the Pioneer form be sent? Chris H. will discuss this with Dave, keeping in mind the target date for the event is in Spring. Joanne is working through a list she has, to identify Pioneers – people born in or near El Cerrito before 1940. Once she gets a list, she will review it with Tom. A few candidates she has identified are Lucy Nordall and Theresa Parella. Theresa is 103 years old.
 - a. Side note: Ed Crowley is working on updating the email list. By unanimous vote, the Board agreed to use echistorical@gmail.com as the email address for ECHS going forward. John had to create the gmail account in connection with the Facebook page and other accounts, so we might as well use it. John and Chris T have credentials for access to the gmail account, and Dave has been copied with the information. Tom will periodically check the @yahoo address for any activity
7. Pumpsie Green program for January 26 annual meeting: Chris S. was not present, so no report was provided. We hope to have a report at our next monthly meeting.
8. El Cerrito Preschool program – film and discussion: Chris S. was not present, so there was no report. We hope to have a report at our next meeting.
9. Archiving: Dianne reported that she had her first meeting with Barbara H. to begin to learn the process and the software. They plan to meet at least once a week, as schedules permit, to achieve this transition.
10. Adobe bricks: Tom reports there has been no reply so far from the Contra Costa Historical Society, which is our first choice to receive one of the bricks from the Castro Adobe. Second choice is the El Sobrante Historical Society, and 3rd would be the San Pablo Historical Society, which may be resurrected. Joanne and Tom will decide which members of the Castro family should be offered brick fragments.
11. Next Forge: Joanne would like Tom to review the Castro article. There was some discussion about who actually has custody of the copy. Chris H. will check with Dave. Dave was to do an edit, then forward to Tom for final touches. Then Chris T. will put it into the Forge format, to print and mail. Chris T. will also send a copy to John for inclusion on the website and Facebook page.
12. Next Sparks: The Pioneers form will be included in Sparks, as well as being distributed via the separate, direct email discussed above in Paragraph 6.
13. Articles of historic nature for city newsletter: Chris T. has completed his article on both Pumpsie Green and Ernie Broglio and Dave has submitted it. The newsletter is published quarterly, so we expect this article to be in the next issue. Joanne will write an article on the first African-American family in El Cerrito.

14. Preservation Issues: Tom and Dave presented a list of 90 historic properties to the City, in response to their request (for a list of 30). Since the city will be contracting for an evaluation of the nominated properties, they are not going to investigate the full list. (note: I'm not sure who now has the responsibility for cutting the list down.)
15. Digitizing EC Journals: Tom mentioned that the Library has asked about future storage of the Journals, possibly wanting us to return the ones they gave us. Tom explained that those issues had been incorporated into our collection, so could not easily be separated out again. The next meeting of this group is Thursday, Sept. 26, 1 pm at Pat's house. The issues on file in the ECHS office probably do not overlap with the collection at Pat's house.
16. Contra Costa Florist/Mabuchi Nomination for state Historic Preservation Award: Dianne has checked with that office again and there is still no information as to when award decisions will be made. This year the process has gone on much longer than usual. Dianne will continue to keep in touch with the staff of the program. Chris H. asked Dianne to notify the board as soon as any news is received – that is, not to wait for the next board meeting. She agreed.
17. 501 (c) status: John pointed out that the 501(c) status of the organization needs to be renewed annually and wanted to be sure someone was “on it.” Pat said she is.
18. Finally, we watched the Ranch San Pablo video.