

El Cerrito Historical Society
Minutes of Meeting April 16, 2019

Present: David Weinstein, Dianne Brenner, Chris Horn, Joanne Rubio, Pat Shaw, Chris Treadway

Review of minutes: Pat requested a correction to the minutes of the previous meeting in the discussion about annual membership renewal reminders. She sends out annual reminders in February, not November, as stated in the minutes. The ECHS fiscal year is February 1 – January 31. If mistakes related to membership come to light, such as redundant letters being sent to people, etc., please advise Pat with specific information so she can make corrections.

Public Comments: None.

Treasurer's Report: Pat distributed copies of the report. As of Feb. 28, 2019, ECHS has a balance of \$18,224.10. She reported that all necessary tax reports had been filed.

Social Media, Forge/Sparks: Chris T. reported there was nothing new to report. Debbie Weeks will help with the transition of the website. Debbie Weeks may have sent a thumb drive to John. John is also willing to help with the website transition, but he does not want on-going responsibility for it. Tim Montgomery had offered some time ago to manage the Facebookpage, but that offer was not pursued. Dave may talk with Tim again, for the purpose of keeping him informed. The committee needs to develop a strategy for social media before moving forward.

Chris T. is managing the Facebook page. Chris T. and Patrick have an article that's ready to be published in Forge & Sparks. It's a long article so there was a question about publishing it all in one issue, or over two issues. It will be published in April. Dave will talk to Patrick.

Joanne says the article by Janice will be ready for August publication.

History Day: Dave has been approached by Amalia Cunningham on the subject of getting West Contra Costa schools involved with History Day. Based on Joanne's familiarity with this event, it seems to be a bigger project than we are prepared to take on at present, even if not until the next school year. What we know about it is that it involves students in grades 4 – 12, there is a fee of \$50 to \$100 per student, and it would involve working with a young person to develop an idea to research, giving them access to ECHS archives, and we don't really know what else. Dave will talk to Ms. Cunningham again to get more information. Joanne will also talk to Melinda McCrary at the Richmond Museum to get more information.

Oral Histories: Dave suggested we consider buying a device that records and transcribes interviews. We've fallen behind on oral histories, and we have some good, known sources – Jerry Figone and Lucille Pedrazzi, for example. Dave will do research into what equipment is available, and prices. Chris T. made a motion to authorize the expense up to \$200. Pat seconded and it was passed unanimously.

Programs & Events:

The lecture on the History of Trees was recorded. Ralph Boniello is to send the PowerPoint to Dave.

The Gambling Walk was a success, with about 15 in attendance.

Dave did a talk today to seniors at St. John's on "City of Sin, City of Homes."

Upcoming: Hillside Festival

Update on Pioneer Days: Joanne will be able to devote more time to this once school is out for the summer. She suggested Pioneer Days be held during the holiday season this year, when people who have left the area are likely to be back in town, visiting family.

October: Creedence event. We hope to have an exhibit at City Hall emphasizing the early days of the band and featuring rare materials. This is not yet confirmed. ECHA will pay for the production of the display boards. There was no objection to this expense, and then we'd own the display. A brochure may be made based on the display panels. There will be a talk by Alec Palao at the Community Center. Chris T. will contact the person who offers Creedence tours. Chris T. will also give Alec any photos he has. Chris Fogerty has offered to help. Dave will contact John Fogerty's agent to see if John is interested in participating. Dave will give a deadline for a response, and if there is none, we can proceed assuming John will not be part of the event. This will facilitate inviting participation of other people. Dave will try to reach the other 2 surviving members of Creedence through Joel Selvin.

Digitizing EC Journal: Work is ongoing. Chris T. is looking into whether it is legal for us to digitize this collection for use other than our own, but he said the earliest years, 1944 – 51 are fair game (public domain?). We set the next date for cataloging on Monday, April 22 at 12:30 at Pat's house. Depending on how it goes, we may also work on Friday, April 26. (NOTE: The Monday meeting has since been cancelled by Pat, so Friday will be the next meeting for this.)

4th of July: It's Thursday this year. Pat reported that the booth fee has been paid. Booth staffing will be Tom in the morning, with help from Chris H to set up, and Dave in the afternoon. Other members can help with staffing the booth and help with the activities. The booth usually features a quiz on El Cerrito, things for children, displays, information on upcoming events, the Ohlone, etc.

Handouts need reprinting. Tom probably has digital versions of them. Patrick can get the printing done.

Joanne suggested we need another plastic display stand for brochures.

We could sell the El Cerrito Arcadia book. We have enough copies on hand.

Contra Costa Florist/Mabuchi award nomination: Dianne reported that the nomination form for the 2019 Governor's Historic Preservation Award has been completed and submitted, and receipt acknowledged. Everyone was happy about that. Each year, this program recognizes awards several projects with this award. Dianne agreed to look into the nomination process for the

annual California Preservation Foundation (CPF) award and may complete that one, too. CPF requires an application fee, and Dave suggested that Eden or their architect may be willing to pay the fee.

Chris T. found 18 copies of Kensington Past & Present in a mixed paper bin at the Recycling Center. One copy will be added to the ECHS library. There was some discussion about how we might use these books for promotion.

The meeting was adjourned.