

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Board Meeting August 11, 2022

Present: David Weinstein, Dianne Brenner, John Falconer, Pat Durham, Michael Martin

Others: Ed Crowley

****Indicates Action Items****

- 1.) **Minutes of Last Meeting:** There were no comments.
- 2.) **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Tom Panas reported revenue of \$375 from dues and \$100 from donations. Expenses were \$326.57 for "Web and other Communications" and \$357.07 for "Markers," which represents the Joel Witherell commemorative plaque for the Recycling Center. The Restricted Funds balance remains at \$5,500.00 and the Unrestricted Funds balance is \$15,459.12 as of July 29, 2022. The bank statement balance, as of that date is \$20,959.12.
 - b. **** Dianne will contact Tom Panas to find out about existing Treasurer procedures regarding dues payments, membership records, etc. Following that, she will arrange a meeting with John Falconer and Ed Crowley to discuss procedures, the database and related matters.****
- 3.) **Comments from Board Members on non-Agenda items:**
 - a. Dave Weinstein reports he has purchased a desk lamp for the Shadi Room.
 - b. Dave is interested in writing an article about the El Cerrito house that was formerly the home of a pre-eminent structural engineer and former professor of Civil Engineering at UC Berkeley, Dr. T. Y. Lin. He would also like to ask the current owners about the possibility of having a tour of the house.
 - c. Dave reported the passing of Lori Dair, who was a leader in Sustainable El Cerrito and in the successful effort to renovate and re-open the Cerrito Theater. There will be a memorial service for her this Saturday, August 13, at the Theater.
 - d. Dianne and Pat Durham both complimented Dave for putting together such a wonderful program for the celebration of the Recycling Center's 50th anniversary.
 - e. The Bay Trail has signs describing and honoring several former "Rosie the Riveters." Dorothy Petroni, a long-time El Cerrito resident, has been honored with one of those signs dedicated to her. She is 96 years old and John suggested that ****Dave consider interviewing her.****
- 4.) **Public Comments:** None

5.) **Neighborhood Preservation:**

- a. If we wanted the city of El Cerrito to require the installation of story poles prior to changing the shape and size of a house, it would require an ordinance. Likewise, if we wanted to require the Planning Commission to decide/approve such projects. Dianne and Michael agreed that this is a project that the Historical Society should look into further, and possibly help neighbors who face these sorts of issues. This is likely a coming trend, with larger homes being built to replace older, smaller ones. We should bring this to City Council at some point (soon), as well as push once again for the completion of a historic survey of El Cerrito. The historic survey project was put on hold several years ago because of the city's financial crisis and the pandemic.

****Dave will ask Sean Moss about the status of the historic survey.****

- 6.) **Allinio House:** The owner of this property wants to convert it to apartments. We agreed it would be appropriate for the Society to get involved to advocate for preservation of the exterior facades of the building. This would align with our interest in neighborhood preservation. We would need interested people who want to take on this project. **(Idea that was not mentioned at the meeting: Put an item in the Sparks and Forge looking for members who want to participate in this project.)**

7.) **Events:**

- a. **September 15:** Tour of Blake Garden in Kensington. Staff has put a limit of 25 people per tour, but if we have enough people sign up, they can provide two tours simultaneously. **(NOTE: this is only 1 month away. We need to publicize it.)**
- b. **October 22:** Tour of Camp Herms
- c. **November (date tbd):** Tour of Sunset View Cemetery

8.) **Sparks & Forge:**

- a. Dave hopes to produce an issue of Sparks in October, with an issue about the Chung Mei House.
- b. The next issue of the Forge will include articles about Pastime Hardware, the Little Hill lounge and Lori Dair.
- c. Michael is writing an article for the fall Forge on the school district in the 1970s, including photos. Dave says he needs it by mid-September. It could be the lead article if in the range of 2500 words. The 2nd article would be in the range of 1400 words. The issue will also include information about upcoming events. Michael mentioned that there is a multi-year reunion coming up on August 20 in the Richmond Auditorium for graduates from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

- 9.) Website: John has made some updates to the website. ****He asks us all to review the sections "El Cerrito in Print" and the page on the Chung Mei House and let him know if there are any problems.****

- i. Topographic maps have been added
 - ii. Phil Chan has donated a set of Lantern slides from the Chung Mei house (via Tom Panas), and John has scanned the slides and added them to the website. This is a wonderful collection including photos of each of the boys who lived in the home, along with their full names. John has obtained the requisite Deed of Gift for our records. We are also expecting a donation from the First Baptist Church of El Cerrito.
 - iii. Copyrights on website materials: Tom says he provided the requested information to Dianne, but Dianne says the message Tom sent doesn't provide the needed information in it. ****She will contact Tom again about this.****
- 10.) **Archiving & Research/Donations:** Archiving is proceeding. We are expecting a donation from the Albany/El Cerrito Exchange Club. The Contra Costa Genealogical Society visited our archive to learn what resources we have as they plan to write about our society in their genealogy publication.
- 11.) Adjourn.