

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Meeting December 17, 2019

Present: David Weinstein, John Falconer, Tom Panas, Pat Shaw, Chris Treadway, Joanne Rubio

Also present: Dianne Brenner, who wrote these minutes.

**1.) Minutes**. Approved with correction that Dave provided. John has been updating the website by posting meeting minutes there. Dianne will send to John any missing and/or corrected minutes that she has.

**2.) Treasurer's Report**. Pat distributed her report. There was income of \$20 and expenses of \$119.80. The Unrestricted Funds balance is \$11,488.58 and the overall bank balance is \$16,988.58. The Contra Costa Historical Society contacted us seeking a donation, but we are not going to contribute.

**3.) Public Comment** . There was none.

**4.) Preservation issues**

- a. City staff (Sean) is still requesting that we cut the list of historical properties from 90 down to 30. Dave and Tom will meet Monday 12/23 to do this. Once the consultant receives this list, they will do an assessment of each property. This makes it very important that any threatened structures and/or structures we're concerned about be included on the list.
- b. The Rodini house – The house has been stabilized. City Council has extended the development agreement for 5 years.

**5.) Mabuchi/ContraCosta Florist Building**. We received word that this project has won a Governor's Historic Preservation Award for 2019. The award ceremony will be January 22 in Sacramento, and we are expecting to receive further details about that in the near future. Tom will notify Eden Housing, the Mayor of El Cerrito and the JACL. Dianne will notify other people and organizations who provided letters of support for the nomination.

**6.) Annual Meeting**.

- a. Will be on January 26 at 3 PM at the Community Center, Garden Room. Dave will present a list of accomplishments from 2019 and goals for the coming year.
- b. There will be a presentation about Pumpsie Green, by Pete Elman. Mrs. Pumpsie Green contacted Dave when she heard about the planned program and she plans to attend.
- c. John will handle the AV for this meeting, and he will try to get the thumb drive of the presentation ahead of time.
- d. As usual, there will be cookies (by Mary), and drinks.

**7.) Slate of Officers for 2020.** We have developed the slate of officers to be presented and voted on at the annual meeting, as follows:

- a. **President** – Dave Weinstein is willing to continue
- b. **Vice President** – Chris Treadway
- c. **Secretary** – Dianne Brenner
- d. **Treasurer** – Pat Shaw
- e. **At Large** – Tom Panas
- f. **At Large** – Joanne Rubio
- g. **At Large** – Chris Horn
- h. **At Large** – John Falconer

Dave will check on the regulations regarding the required advance notice to the membership about the proposed slate of officers.

**8.) Annual Meeting Service Recognition awards.** At the annual meeting, we will recognize the past service of Christine Roed and Barbara Hill. Tom agreed to get plaques made.

**9.) Plastics Policy.** Dave proposed that instead of using single use plastic cups at our events, we should buy some inexpensive but re-usable glasses. He offered to take care of this. Tom made a motion that we buy 48 glasses at a cost not to exceed \$100. John seconded and it passed unanimously.

**10.) Other Events:**

- a. Pioneer Days: Joanne has interviewed three Pioneers extensively. The program will include old El Cerrito photos, biographies of the present pioneers, and refreshments. This is an event to honor their contribution to El Cerrito history, and they will be given certificates.) There was a discussion about whether we need a minimum number of pioneers to go ahead with the program, and the general sense was it would be good to have at least 6. Joanne and Tom will meet to discuss this. April is the target date for this event.
  - i. We still have the biographies of last year's pioneers, but we don't have permission to publish them.
- b. **Meeting/event list for next year:** Dave is working on developing this list.

**11.) Forge.**

- a. The next Forge should go out in late January, so it can include a reminder for dues. Chris T. agreed to write an article about the Mayfair, which was a market that stood on the parking lot at the Del Norte BART parking lot. This lot is currently being developed.
- b. Topics for future issues include:
  - i. The story of an early African American family in El Cerrito/Stege. Dave and Joanne will discuss this further. It would be great if any photos can be found and included.
  - ii. The history of attempts to annex Kensington to El Cerrito
  - iii. Tiny's stable and rodeo ring

iv. The collapse of local newspapers

- 12.) Sparks.** We don't yet have permission to post the Rancho video to our website. John F. said he will contact Rick Prelinger, at the Prelinger Archive, and seek clearance for us to post it. Meanwhile, Dave will watch the film and will write an article about it for Sparks, in the format of a movie review. The goal is to get the next Sparks out before the annual meeting in January.
- 13.) Archiving:** Due to travel, etc., John hasn't been working on this, but he is now able to resume. We are looking to build a team to handle this task.
- 14.) Website/YouTube:** The Fogerty/Creedence Clearwater Revival talk is up on the website. Several people shot video of the event (Alec's friend Kent, Mike Freeman) and Dave shot some stills. Dave and John will meet to discuss the status of these videos.
- 15.) Adobe Bricks:** We kept one and the others have been distributed. Tom will send Dave a list of where they went.
- 16.) Digitizing El Cerrito Journal:** The El Cerrito library asked to have them returned, and they have been. The library will be storing them.

The meeting was adjourned.