

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Board Meeting December 17, 2020

Present: David Weinstein, Dianne Brenner, Chris Treadway, Tom Panas, Ed Crowley, Pat Durham, Pat Shaw, Joanne Rubio

****Indicates Action Items**

1.) Minutes of prior meeting: The minutes were approved as revised, with no comments or corrections.

2.) Treasurer's Report: Pat Shaw provided the report, dated December 17, 2020. She reported income of \$85 from dues, and expenses in excess of \$500. The uncertainty about the total is due to a pending invoice for printing of the Forge, which is expected to be approximately \$280. The Restricted Funds balance is \$5,500.00, the Unrestricted Funds balance is \$12,002.76. The Mechanics Bank Balance was \$17,502.76 as of November 30, 2020.

3.) Public Comment: There was none.

4.) Board Comments:

- a. (Someone?) is making a documentary about Creedence Clearwater Revival and they have contacted the Historical Society about materials. Tom has photos from the 50s and 60s. The request for these is not urgent. ****Tom will send some low-resolution images and see if they are interested in what he has.**
- b. Dave contacted the San Pablo Planning Commission regarding the proposed sale of the Adobe. There are questions about what will be done with the current contents of the building, since it has been serving as a museum. Perhaps the collection will be put into storage.
- c. Dave replied to an email from a former board member at the Richmond Museum who was using the recent Forge piece on African Americans to critique the Richmond Museum for not having done the same. Dave made it clear that it was not our goal to "scoop" Richmond, as the former board member had implied, and Dave said we want to continue to work cooperatively.

5.) Events/Annual Meeting:

- a. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 31, and it will be a virtual meeting. Dave has received brief biographical statements from all Board candidates. **** Dave will send the bios to us for review and editing. **John (Ed?) will post the slate of board candidates on the website. **A notice will also be sent to members, inviting them to offer nominations to the Board.** Emailed invitations will go to the complete email list, but only members can vote in the Board election. The meeting will also be publicized on the website

and Facebook page. Dave will moderate the event. The first 15 minutes or so will be the business meeting and the vote (using Zoom's vote function), and he plans to screenshare the list of goals for the coming year, the planned membership drive, and the Treasurer's Report.

- b. ****Annual reminders for membership renewals and dues payments will be mailed out Feb. 1 by Pat S.**

6.) Forge: Everyone agrees the last issue looked really nice. Jon Bashor has expressed interest in writing articles for the Society. The list of potential future articles includes the following:

- a. The Montessori preschool that is next to the Rodini house and which is closing;
- b. A write-up on interviews being conducted by the Human Resources Commission;
- c. Articles about the Wilson family, Alan Dones and other Black families who made up a Black enclave on Shevlin Drive;
- d. Walter Maddox, his wife Mary, and his experience helping found and editing an early Black publication, plus his role in the NAACP.

7.) Goals: **** Everyone is asked to review the document that Dave sent, listing the proposed goals and give feedback to Dave.** The list of proposed goals will debut at the annual meeting. Dave will also present it to the City Clerk as a document, rather than presenting it as an oral comment at the City Council meeting.

8.) Sparks: Dave said he hopes to get the next issue out soon, maybe by January 6, 2021. Ed Crowley said he's OK with that date.

9.) Website: Dave asked for a volunteer to help John F. with updating the website, while he is recovering from his broken hand. Ed said he's willing to take a look at it and try, though he is not experienced in website development. ****Dave will contact John and ask John to contact Ed by phone if he wants Ed's help.**

10.) Member lists: Ed manages the master email list, which includes members as well as others who receive courtesy copies of Forge, Sparks, etc. Pat Shaw manages the membership list, which includes member addresses and phone numbers. ****Dave will provide official email addresses of new City Council members to Ed so they can be added to the Courtesy Copy list.** Members receive the Forge at home, via USPS. City Council members receive it at their City Hall address. There was a discussion about Post Office access during Covid-19 restrictions and hazards.

11.) Adjourn.