

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Board Meeting February 10, 2022

Present: David Weinstein, Dianne Brenner, Pat Shaw, Tom Panas, John Falconer, Pat Durham

****Indicates Action Items****

- 1.) **Treasurer's Report:** Pat Shaw reported revenue from dues and donations totaling \$35.00 and expenses of \$216.00. The Restricted Funds balance is \$5,500.00 and the Unrestricted Funds balance is \$14,919.83 as of December 31, 2021. The bank statement for January had not been received at the time of this report.
- 2.) **Comments from Board Members on non-Agenda items:** None
- 3.) **Public Comments:** None.
- 4.) **Re-cap of Annual Meeting:** It was noted that some people were unable to join the meeting, including Board members, due to technical difficulties. The recorded program has been posted on our YouTube channel, and John will link to it from the website and the Facebook page. Everyone congratulated Dave on his presentation about El Cerrito neighborhoods.
- 5.) **Recycling Center 50th Anniversary:** Dave reported that he has made a presentation to City Council regarding this event, including that he is working with the Environmental Quality Commission to plan it. Dianne is looking into pricing and options for a wall plaque honoring Joel Witherill, with text and a photo, intending it to be posted inside the Recycling Center lobby. The architects who designed the Center have noticed and responded to the plans for the anniversary celebration
- 6.) **Rodini House:** Dianne has had no response from City personnel and ****needs to push on this.**** The house is an historic structure and the original developer had agreed to restore it, but now the property has changed hands and we need to make sure the commitment to restoration and public access is not lost. In addition, we would like to establish interpretive plaques at the site. ****Dianne will review the documents Dave sent her regarding this project, to be familiar with the history of the commitments regarding this property.****
- 7.) **Sparks/Forge:** Dave reports that the materials for the next issue of the Forge are in John's hands, except for the photos, which will be provided soon. There are more articles in the works for future issues, and the next issue may be out in March. Dave is hoping to produce 3 issues this year. He would like to publish the names of Board members, as well as major volunteers.
- 8.) **New Membership procedures:** We have already agreed to acknowledge new members, new life members and donors with a paper thank you letter, and to send a certificate acknowledging life members. Today we also considered acknowledging renewing members. John made the motion and Pat Durham seconded it. There were

5 “yes” votes and one “no.” So, we will send thank you notes to renewing members by email unless we don’t have the email address, in which case we will send a paper letter.

The process will be as follows:

- 1) The monthly Treasurer’s report will include the **names and street addresses** of any:

New members

Life members

Donors (including the amount donated)

Renewing members (with email address, when available. If not, with street address).

- 2) John Falconer will send thank you emails to renewing members who have provided email addresses. Dianne will prepare a paper thank you to those renewing members who haven’t provided an email address. The note will include a request to provide an email address.

- 3) Dianne will prepare paper thank you letters, Life member certificates and stamped, addressed envelopes, and will deliver them to David for his signature and mailing.

9.) **Archiving Platform:** Dave proposed that the archiving “position/s” could do more than archiving materials. They could also answer questions from the public and solicit additional materials for the collection. He would like to have a small committee of people handling this function, and Tom pointed out that consistency will be important if we have several people responsible for archiving. We should probably be moving towards a more electronic-centered archive, with the index being electronic and available on-line. John clarified that the digital collection (recorded presentations, etc.) is available on YouTube, and they are also saved on a google drive in the cloud. He also has physical backups.

10.) **Research:** Oliver Pollack is developing an exhibit on the history of the Jewish community in Contra Costa County and has asked if we had any information. None of us do so Dave will report that back to Oliver. Oliver also requested and received information on the late Harry Kiefer, the owner of Kiefer’s Furniture.

11.) **Memorial for Chris Treadway:** Chris was Vice President of the El Cerrito Historical Society at the time of his passing in November 2021, and he contributed immensely to the Society’s activities and the El Cerrito community in general. We would like to create a physical memorial to him. We considered planting a tree in his name, perhaps in the Hillside Nature Area, though we also acknowledged that the city is no longer planting trees due to a lack of funds for on-going tree maintenance. While

a tree is still a possibility, we will consider other ideas. ****Pat Durham agreed to research other memorial ideas.**** and ****Dave agreed to consult with Chris's wife once we have an idea and to see if she has a preference.**** There is a bench honoring Chris's deceased son, Henry, at Cerrito Vista Park. We will discuss this again at our next meeting.

- 12.) **Photos on the website and copyright issues:** ****Dianne will continue moving this project forward.****
- 13.) **TrailTrekking Event:** The EC Trail Trekkers are planning a Hillside Festival for May 14-15. This will include a history hike through the Hillside Nature Area led by Dave, probably at 6 pm. We agreed, by general consensus, to add the name of the El Cerrito Historic Society as a co-sponsor in publicity for the event.
- 14.) **Adjourn.**