

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Board Meeting January 13, 2022

Present: David Weinstein, Dianne Brenner, Pat Shaw, Tom Panas,

Also present: Ed Crowley (non-board member)

****Indicates Action Items****

- 1.) **Treasurer's Report:** Pat Shaw reported revenue from dues and donations totaling \$130.00 and expenses of \$113.00. The Restricted Funds balance is \$5,500.00 and the Unrestricted Funds balance is \$14,919.83. The bank balance as of December 30, 2021 is \$20,419.83.
- 2.) **Review Minutes of Prior meeting:** There were comments regarding reporting of the Rodini House discussion. The site/building was saved because of proven relevance to the original community. The Historical Society would like to help establish a commemorative plaque and other interpretive elements at the site and is interested in helping foster community use and access to the house, including use and access by the Society itself.
- 3.) **Comments from Board Members on non-Agenda items: None**
- 4.) **Public Comments:** None.
- 5.) **Events:**
 - a. **Annual Meeting in January:**
 - i. The Slate of Officers – There has been some difficulty recruiting people to run for the available board positions. There was a discussion about whether a Board quorum is required to hold the annual meeting. ****Tom P. said he will check the by-laws about this.****
 - ii. Program -- Dave W. will provide a presentation about the neighborhoods in El Cerrito.
 - iii. Voting – ****John F. will manage the voting process, as he did last year.****
 - iv. Goals and Accomplishments – ****Dave W. will compile a list.****
 - b. Pat D. is developing a presentation on the El Cerrito **High School Archiving Project.**
- 6.) **Archiving:** Chris Sterba has offered to do archiving for the Society beginning in March. There may be 2 other volunteers for this.
- 7.) **Recycling Center 50th Anniversary:** A celebration will be held Friday, August 5, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the Center. There will be speakers, including Joel Witherill's daughter and other leaders. The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) is creating a banner marking the anniversary – 1972 – 2022. Events for children may be organized by EQC for the following day, Saturday. The Society hopes to create a plaque commemorating

Joel Witherill's central role in growing the center and ensuring its survival. ****Dave will send Dianne the proposed text and a black and white photo. ** Dianne will look into design options and prices.****

- 8.) **Rodini House**: Dianne was reminded to press on this re: a plaque, public access to the building and site, and open hours.
- 9.) **Sparks & Forge**: The next Forge will not likely be out before the Annual Meeting. It will feature articles about Gerald Martin and the mural at the Del Norte BART station. Ideas for future articles include the sign from the old bar at Pasttime Hardware, and Jon Bashor's article on local barbershops. (NOTE: Dianne has envelopes for mailing the Forge.)
- 10.) **New Member Procedures**: We affirmed that the Society will send letters of thanks and recognition to new life members, new regular members and donors, beginning with the current month. Renewing members will receive an email recognition. Dianne offered a motion, Pat S. seconded it and the vote was unanimous in favor, but as there were only 3 board members present, ****we will need another vote.**** Dianne and Dave will handle these thank you letters based on information Pat Shaw provides in the monthly Treasurer's Report.
- 11.) **Research Requests**: The Society has recently received a number of requests for research assistance. We should be keeping track of these activities.
 - a. Robin Mitchell's request was handled by Tom P. and is complete;
 - b. John Lingran asked for photos we may have on the history of Creedence Clearwater Revival. Tom P. says we don't have that much and he should be referred to the High School Archiving Project and to Alex Palao;
 - c. Drew Waters was referred by Tom P. to the Society's historic context statement;
 - d. Anna Marie Merell asked, on behalf of the Rosie project, for use of the florist photo from the "Images" book. Tom P. gave his OK.
- 12.) **Website and Copyrighted materials**: Tom P. has reviewed the images that Dianne sent him and has responded. We own most of the photos, but they should all be credited, whether ours or from someone else. ****Dianne will continue sending Tom groups of photos from the website for his review.****
- 13.) **Adjourn.**