

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Board Meeting June 17, 2021

Present: David Weinstein, Dianne Brenner, Chris Treadway, Tom Panas

****Indicates Action Items**

- 1.) Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, with no comments or corrections.
- 2.) Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Pat S. provided the Treasurer's report, dated June 17, 2021. She reported income of \$325 from dues, plus a donation of \$10. There were no expenses. The Restricted Funds balance remains at \$5,500.00, the Unrestricted Funds balance is \$14,593.10. The Mechanics Bank Balance was \$20,093.10 as of May 28, 2021.
- 3.) Board Member Comments – not on Agenda:**
 - a. At the previous meeting, there was a discussion of artifacts that Dave has collected from the El Cerrito house, where the long-time owner is moving out. Out of concern that the Society has no storage space, Tom wondered if Dave intended to donate these items to the Society, or if he was going to keep them himself. Dave confirmed that mostly he intended to keep the objects he collected, but some of the smaller items might be donated to the Society. All agreed that we need new, additional storage space. Tom also mentioned that any sculptures that had been outdoors will need to be thoroughly checked for bugs and other infestations, which could cause damage to other items when brought indoors.
 - b. Dave mentioned that he is experiencing some delay in being able to complete some current projects. This is a result simply of needing to balance life and work.
 - c. Along those lines, Pat Durham's talk about the history of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade in El Cerrito will take place in August, not July as earlier intended.
 - d. Joanne Rubio has resigned from the Board, as she is moving out of the area. Dave plans to interview her for Sparks, will draft an article which Tom will then review and possibly expand. Tom was the one who invited Joanne to join the Board, and her contributions have been significant, including Pioneer Days and extensive research on the Castro family.
 - e. Mysterious Mechanical Object. This item was found on a property in the El Cerrito hills and given to Dave with the understanding that he would try to find out what it is and may or may not keep it for the Society's collection. Tom

Panas agreed to take a look at it in person. Chris Treadway may also take a look to see if they can figure out what it is or what it's from.

4.) Public Comments: None

5.) Meeting Schedule: After some discussion, it was agreed that we would meet at 5 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month. 5 p.m. seems to be a good time for most Board members, and this new date and time will not interfere with the existing schedule for open hours at the Shadi Room in City Hall. (3rd Thursdays) The July meeting will be in person, at Dave's house.

6.) Membership Rates: We resumed this discussion from the previous meeting and voted on changing the rates as follows: Life membership would increase from \$300 to \$400. Sponsor members would increase from \$60 to \$75, and Household membership would increase from \$25 to \$30. Tom moved that we vote on these new rates, Dianne seconded the motion, and the change was approved unanimously. These new rates will be published in the new brochure when it is produced. **** We need to establish an effective date, so the website can be updated accordingly, too.****

7.) Events:

- a. Tom Panas participated in a recent walk led by Buddy Akacic. Buddy has been organizing these hikes since the Senior Center has been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He is active on the Environmental Quality Committee, the Human Relations Commission, and publishes a weekly email newsletter.
- b. The program on the history of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day parade in El Cerrito is planned for August.
- c. Chris Sterba is putting together a program on the Ouija Board Mania incident in El Cerrito in the 1920s. This program could be our first live, in-person program in the fall of 2021.

8.) Forge:

- a. Dave's planned article on Gerald Martin is still in process. It should be ready to publish later this year.
- b. Jon Bashor has been doing research on Walter Maddox, and this article will appear in the next issue of The Forge.
- c. The Montessori School is a potential article.
- d. The MLK Day parade event will be promoted in the next issue, provided it is published before the event happens.
- e. Transcription of interviews: Dave has been using Trint audio transcription software for the transcription of his interviews and will investigate other services. The Eichler Network may provide Dave with a subscription to Trint or another service for transcription, and ECHS may be able to share the subscription. Tom suggested Rev.com, which he has used, but it is more costly than Trint.

9.) Sparks:

- a. For the next issue, we are expecting a story by Rich Bartke on the origins of the Hillside Run;
- b. We plan an announcement of the August presentation on the history of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade in El Cerrito;
- c. Dave may write an item about the El Cerrito Neighborhood Stories, a live theater performance organized by Erin Merit during the Pandemic.

10.) Website and YouTube: Our webmaster, John F., will be out of town for the summer, highlighting again the need for us to find a second person to help out with this task and provide back-up. We are all asked to think of likely candidates. This person would not need to be a Board member.

11.) Map: This project will be deferred to next year.

12.) Adjourn.