

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Board Meeting March 10, 2022

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

****Indicates Action Items****

1.) **Treasurer's Report:**

- a. Pat Shaw reported revenue of \$255 from dues (\$210) and donations (\$45) and no expenses. The Restricted Funds balance is \$5,500.00 and the Unrestricted Funds balance is \$14,692.95 as of January 31, 2022. The bank statement balance, as of January 31, 2022 is \$20,192.95.
- b. ****John, Pat S. and Dianne will meet separately to iron out procedures for Thank You notes acknowledging dues and donations.****

2.) **Comments from Board Members on non-Agenda items:**

- a. We have received a donation through Brevity. ****Pat Shaw will investigate to find out who the donor is.****
- b. There is a parcel north of the Hillside Natural Area known as the Fairview Open Space. Toll is interested in developing the space. Dave will attend a meeting soon on this issue.

3.) **Public Comments:** None.

4.) **Recycling Center 50th Anniversary:** Dave reported that a banner citing the anniversary has been raised at the recycling center. Planning for the August 5 event is continuing. There will probably be an artist-in-residence or two. It is decided that the plaque honoring Joel Witherell will be a photo with text side-by-side within a picture frame. Dave is to send target dimensions to Dianne.

5.) **Rodini House:** Dianne sent an email to the City manager, copying Sean Moss and city council members. The message conveyed our willingness to assist them in planning for future use of the house and the interpretive plaques, per the city's documents and agreements. The Historical Society has a lot of information to contribute to the signage. Tom will start thinking about this and will contact Melanie Mintz on this item. The only reply to Dianne's email to date has been from Paul Fadelli, who expressed thanks for being kept in the loop.

- a. Dianne's email listing the major points about this project and the ECHS role in it (from city documents) was attached to the meeting agenda sent out by Dave.
****Anyone who wants another copy should let Dianne know.****

6.) **July 4th Event:** El Cerrito wants to make this a revenue neutral event, so they are seeking donations to cover the \$50K budget. We agreed to donate \$100 from the El Cerrito Historical Society, and we will publicize the event in the Sparks and Forge. This event is our biggest outreach event each year.

- 7.) **Sparks/Forge:** The next Forge is almost ready to print. John has assumed the job of production and layout. The next Sparks may also be ready for release in March. Dave welcomes ideas for articles.
- 8.) **Archiving:** Chris Sterba and Mike Freeman have offered to take on this job. Barbara Hill has begun teaching Chris about Past Perfect, the digital archiving software. We have lots of digital materials without hard copies. There is some concern about losing digital-only items that are stored in the cloud.
- 9.) **Research:** We've had a few recent research requests:
- a. Rasheed Shabazz, a grad student at UCLA from San Pablo, is researching BART and why it isn't undergrounded in El Cerrito. Likely because city council decided at the time not to pay the extra cost for undergrounding the system in El Cerrito.
 - b. Bob Johnson, author of many books on hikes, is working on a future book and is seeking historical information for an El Cerrito hike.
 - c. Steve Finacom, of Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assn, wants to develop a lecture on The Chung Mei Home and wants to reach out to former residents of the Home. ****Tom will contact Steve (Dave will send Tom the contact information.)**** Tom says it may be easier for him to just give the talk rather than convey the info to someone else.
- 10.) **Memorial for Chris Treadway:** Dave reports that several people have stepped up offering to help finish Chris's unfinished book. Dave is thinking that Heyday books in Berkeley might be a good publisher. Chris's widow, Diana, likes the idea of planting a tree in Cerrito Vista Park as a memorial to Chris. While the tree idea was suggested by Stephen Pree, the EC arborist, Dianne pointed out that she had heard El Cerrito wasn't planting any new trees because they don't have the budget to care for the trees they already have. Pat Durham said she will circulate photos she has taken of the various memorials already in Cerrito Vista Park. We will make a decision about the memorial at our April meeting.
- 11.) **Copyrights and photos on our website:** ****Dianne will discuss this with John, who currently runs the website.****
- 12.) **Possible Addition to the Board:** Pat Durham said she had talked with Michael Martin (son of Gerald Martin, subject of the article in the next Forge) about joining the Board of the Historical Society. He is interested. ****Pat D. agreed to invite him to our next meeting.****
- 13.) **Adjourn.**