

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Meeting November 19, 2019

Present: David Weinstein, Chris H., Pat Shaw, Chris T.

Also present: Dianne Brenner, who wrote these minutes.

1.) Minutes. Pat pointed out that Barbara Hill's last name was mistakenly written as "Hall." Dianne has since corrected this and sent the corrected minutes out.

2.) Treasurer's Report was distributed. There was income of \$325 (dues) and expenses of \$991.05 (the Creedence events, Forge printing and postage). The Unrestricted Funds balance is \$11,598.58 and the overall bank balance is \$17,098.58.

3.) Public Comment There was none.

4.) Preservation issues City staff has requested that the list of 90 properties be cut to 30. Dave will do this.

5.) Events

- a. **Pioneer Event:** As Joanne and Tom were not present, there was no report on the Pioneer Event.
- b. **List of Meeting topics for the coming year:** Dave is working on this. One idea is for a panel on the collapse of local newspapers. For the annual meeting on January 26, 2020, the topic will be Pumpsie Green.
- c. St. Jerome Reunion: They have an anniversary coming up and have asked the historical society for help on research. Dave thought Tom would know if we have any photos. Dianne pointed out that we have several file folders labeled "schools" but didn't know if any of the clippings were about St. Jerome's school.

6.) Honoring Christine Roede: At the next annual meeting we want to recognize and honor her service to the El Cerrito Historical Society. As the date is getting closer, we need the plaques made. Tom has visited her and says she is doing OK. Dave will try to move forward with getting the plaque made. Will we also recognize Barbara Hill's service?

7.) The Forge: Ideally, this is published quarterly.

The latest issue included a long article about the Castro family.

- a. There followed some discussion about Dave's ideas for improving The Forge. He would like to have the option for color photos, and suggested using better paper, possibly 11" x 17" folded and stapled on the fold (so that loose pages would not fall out). Chris T. pointed out that most historic photos are Black & White. We might, however, want to make our logo color, or do spot color on the publication. We could try for 8 pages (11 x 17 folded), which would allow

for a major article, miscellaneous news, front page teasers for articles inside, possibly room for membership sign-ups and donations.

- b. There was a question about what the postage would cost for an 8 pager, whether folded in half or mailed flat. We send out about 200 to a list that includes members, city council, the Senior Center, state representatives and congress people, and other historical societies.
- c. Chris T. will look into publication costs for these other options that have been discussed. Including: is it cheaper to fold it or mail it flat, (Dave would prefer if we could mail it flat. (8.5" x 11")). color, types of paper, postage. Chris said it cost \$282 to print 375 copies of an 8 pager, including an ad for the printer. It is \$200 for a 4 pager.
- d. Future story idea: the history of the attempt to annex Kensington to El Cerrito. Kensington asked El Cerrito to annex it in the 1950s. The effort failed.

8.) Next Sparks: Ideally, this is published monthly (email only).

- a. Chris T. is to pull a still from the Rancho film and write a piece about it. It opened in 1931 as a restaurant and in 1932 became a night club.
- b. Include a reminder about the annual meeting.
- c. Include an article about the railroad relics – the California & Nevada switching plate, and the piece of railroad track in Arlington Park near the clubhouse.

9.) Archiving: Dianne reported she had one meeting with John Falconer to transition the archiving to him. Given his software background and skills, it looks like he will be well able to learn the archiving software and handle the job. Dave is thinking it would be a good idea to have a team working on the archiving. We should all be thinking of who we know who might be interested and able to do this, like any library science retirees.

10.) YouTube: Our version the video on Larry Quirico is being edited and will be posted on our YouTube channel.

11.) Adobe Bricks: Status quo, per last meeting. No movement.

12.) Sally Rand book: Dave has looked for it in local libraries and has not found a copy. It must have been a small printing. Unless, he happens upon a copy, Dave will drop the idea of acquiring it for ECHS.

13.) Digitizing EC Journal: The library apparently intends to take back all the boxes. Pat will ask them if they want the lists we made of page sizes and numbers of pages.

14.) Contra Costa Florist/Mabuchi award nomination: Dianne has checked again with the folks in Sacramento, and there is still no decision. The award ceremony is scheduled for January 22, however, in Sacramento.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.