

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Board Meeting November 18, 2021

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

****Indicates Action Items**

- 1.) **Treasurer's Report:** Pat Shaw reported revenue of \$600 (dues and contributions) and expenses of \$413.30 (flyer printing). The Restricted Funds balance is \$5,500 and the Unrestricted Funds balance is \$14,629.83. The bank balance as of October 29, 2021 is \$20,129.83. In future reports, Pat S. will include the amounts that donors have given (along with their names) and ****Dave will send a personal note acknowledging donations as well as life memberships.****
- 2.) **Board Member Comments – not on Agenda:**
 - a. This meeting was dedicated to the memory of Chris Treadway, the Society's Vice President, who passed away on November 11, 2021. We stopped to note his many contributions over the years to collecting and reporting the history of El Cerrito and to supporting local organizations and their events. He will be missed. When the time is right, ****Dave will talk with Chris's widow,**** Diana, about how the Society may help with finishing and publishing Chris's book. She is very motivated to help the Society in any way she can. Dianne Brenner suggested we create a small committee to work on the book, and Dave suggested Betty Buginas might be a good candidate to lead the effort. He will ask her. Dianne may also help.
- 3.) **Public Comments:** None.
- 4.) **Events:**
 - a. **Annual Meeting in January:**
 - i. We decided the meeting will be a hybrid live/zoom format, with the proviso that we cancel the live option if pandemic transmission rates rise. (Dianne made the motion, Pat S. seconded and the vote was unanimous.)
 - ii. We will acknowledge the passing of Chris Treadway, Vice President of the Society, and Grace MacNeill, long time El Cerrito librarian and former board member of the Society.
 - iii. If the Community Center is renting meeting rooms by then, we can probably use the small room. ****Dave will check with Chris Jones about availability**** and our existing credit for meeting room rental. If we can't meet at the Community Center, the Camp Herms Lodge might be an option.
 - iv. Date: TBD. Tom P. pointed out that our Fiscal Year runs February 1 to January 31, and he suggested we move the meeting to February, after the

close of our FY. ****Tom will check the by-laws,**** and maybe we can change the date starting in 2023.

v. Topic: We also need to need to decide on a topic for the upcoming Annual Meeting. Suggestions included:

1. Trains

2. The Archiving Project – Dave and Pat Durham will coordinate on contacting Jackie Faulkner, president of the Project, about the possibility of them providing a speaker. Subject ideas included: historical information about schools in El Cerrito; Famous Gauchos -- High School grads who have had extraordinary success. John Falconer may help with this, too.

b. **Recycling Center Anniversary:** The Center was founded in 1972 by volunteers and the city began operating it in 1977. A celebration of the 50th anniversary will be held this August, and will be a collaboration between the Environmental Quality Committee and the El Cerrito Historical Society. This is expected to be a live event. The celebration should include acknowledgement of Joel Witherell, who was key to the effort. Maybe the city can dedicate a plaque to him at the Center.

5.) **Board:** Dave polled all those present, and each of us indicated we want to continue next year in our same positions on the Board. We need a few new people to join the Board. Suggestions included Jon Bashor, Chris Sterba, Jeffrey Wright (Chamber of Commerce), Cheryl Jones, Letitia Moore. ****Pat Durham will contact the latter three, and Dave will contact the first two,**** to see if any of them are interested.

6.) **Rodini House:** Dianne reported on her conversation with Sean Moss (City Planner) about the status of the project. Sean confirmed that a building permit has been issued, that the house is to be moved to another location on the property, and that it is to be restored according to Department of the Interior standards. Dianne told Sean that the EC Historical Society remains vitally interested in the future of the building, and the possible future public use of the space. She suggested that it might be a good location for some of the Society's ever-expanding collection. Sean suggested Dianne also get in touch with the City Manager and Assistant City manager about this, and Dianne has done so. There was further discussion among Board members during this meeting about what sort of use of the House the Society really is interested in. We should be offering to "add value" and collaborate with others to enhance the space, not monopolize it. We want to be a part of it, however it plays out. We might want to create displays, in secure vitrines, and possibly house archives and storage there, but not a museum. There were questions of climate control and security. Perhaps we would only display copies of items at the House. With this possible future space, and the possibility of space in the future new library, we need to define what use we might make of the different spaces, one idea being as follows: City hall – archives; Rodini House – display/storage; New Library -- ?

- 7.) **Camp Herms:** Once again, rumors are circulating that the Scouts may decide to sell this property in connection with the proposed bankruptcy reorganization plan to settle claims of sexual abuse. The property has historical value and therefore the Society is interested in its' fate. ****Tom P. will check the General Plan**** regarding current zoning for this property, but he believes it is zoned as Open Space. It would not be a simple matter to change the zoning in connection with selling it.
- 8.) **Membership Flyer:** ****Dave will get copies to Board members**** for distribution at key places throughout the community.
- 9.) **Sparks:** The last issue was sent out after Chris Treadway had passed away, but before that was known. It was re-sent with an added announcement of his passing. John will post the Sparks issue on the website, with the added note.
- 10.) **Forge:**
 - a. Dave's article on Gerald Martin is nearing completion. Mr. Martin has reviewed it. Publication is only pending receipt of photos from the family.
 - b. There will be an article on the historic mural at the Del Norte BART station is in the works.
 - c. There will be an announcement of the Annual Meeting coming up in January.
 - d. There will be notes on the passing of Grace MacNeill and Chris Treadway.
 - e. Dave has interviewed David Pryde, of Pastime Hardware, which was founded circa 1930. Dave is writing an article about the business for the Chamber of Commerce newsletter, on behalf of the El Cerrito Historical Society.
 - f. ****Dave will complete the Forge and get it to John F. who will do the layout****, using the same layout as before. He hopes to get it out before Christmas.
(NOTE: Dianne has envelopes for mailing the Forge.)
- 11.) **Research:**
- 12.) **Copyrights:** Dianne reported that this effort is proceeding. She has provided Tom P. screenshots of a first set of photos on the Society's website, and ****Tom is to review and identify**** any for which we need to provide attribution.
- 13.) **Adjourn.**