

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Meeting October 15, 2019

Present: Chris Treadway, David Weinstein, Joanne Rubio, Pat Shaw, John Falconer

Also present, Dianne Brenner, who wrote these minutes.

Prior to the meeting, Dianne returned several books and a CD about the Past Perfect software. The key to the Shadi room was given to John Falconer by Dave W.

- 1.) Minutes** of the last meeting were approved as written. There was clarification of responsibilities between John F. (website and YouTube) and Chris T. (Facebook). There was some discussion about how the list of 90 historical El Cerrito buildings was reported in these minutes. See #13 below.
- 2.) Treasurer's Report** was distributed. There was income of \$153.47 (royalties from Arcadia) and expenses of \$94 (the Creedence events). The Unrestricted Funds balance is \$12,095.16 and the overall bank balance is \$17,595.16. Pat reported that all tax filings (per the organization's tax exempt status) are up to date.
- 3.) Public Comment** There was none.
- 4.) Events, recaps and to come**
  - a. **Creedence Clearwater exhibit and event:**
    - i. **Exhibit:** There were approximately 150 people at the reception for the City Hall exhibit. The Maestro and Chris T. contributed photos to the exhibit. Dave recorded some video at the reception, but it needs some editing.
    - ii. **Talk/Event:** About 250 attended the Sunday talk. Dave will get a copy of the Golliwog's compilation LP, for the ECHS collection. It was unfortunate that this event was at the same time as the Sip & Savor event at the Berkeley Country Club, which probably drew the EC politicians as well as the "movers and shakers." We'll need to be more careful with scheduling events. A professional videographer recorded the talk. Alex will share this video but we won't own it. There was some discussion about sound quality. If/when we use this room for an event again, John F. will make sure that both sets of speakers are used. This may improve sound quality at the back of the room.
  - b. **Senior Resource Fair:** Dianne reported that someone who visited our table suggested contacting the owners of The Junket for possible Pioneers. "They have been there forever." Ed is adding the sign-ins to our email list.

- c. **Pioneer Event:** We should do a dedicated mailing to members about this. Joanne has interviewed Wanda Evans, who is 90 years old, and Wanda is considering being a Pioneer at the event. Wanda knew Bill Pechert, Elmer Remmer and the Figones. Chris T. suggested contacting the Needham Family, who have been here since 1939. He will contact Beverly Needham. Joanne and Tom P. are splitting the list of people to talk to, seeking pioneer candidates. Tom is going to contact Lucy Nordahl. John will put a PDF of the Pioneer nomination form on the ECHS website. John will also check with Mrs. Petroni (in her 90s) to find out when she came to El Cerrito.
- d. **Pumpsie Green event:** There was some discussion of which room at the Community Center would be best suited for this event. The Garden Room has been reserved, and Dave will give more thought to what size crowd we might need to accommodate. One speaker on the program knew Pumpsie Green. Other speakers are Nat Bates, Pete Elman and someone from Multi-Ethnic sports. Dave emphasized we want a historical program, not a memorial.
  - i. We should do more multi-ethnic programs. The School Board is considering renaming one of the schools after the first African American family, who arrived in 1894.
- e. **Preschool Film:** This was viewed (by whom?) and it was found to have nothing in it about El Cerrito. So we have scratched that from the list of potential future programs.
- f. **Future Programs:** Dave would like to plan ahead a list of 4 -5 programs to develop. This was practice worked out well for the Centennial year programs.

**5.) Christine Roede:** Christine is now 96 and she has helped in recent years with the archiving project. Dave suggested that ECHS should recognize her efforts at the annual meeting in January (if not before). Joanne suggested also recognizing Barbara Hill, who was the lead on the archiving since 2011. Dave will ask Tom P. to design certificates for them.

**6.) Forge:**

- a. The copy for the Castro article has been laid out. Chris T. reports that the photo files are rather too small to print. Pat asked for several days' advance notice of when the issue will be ready for her to process for mailing.
- b. It was suggested that the front page of the issue should include a notice of the annual meeting (in January) and should also publicize the new email address: [echistorical@gmail.com](mailto:echistorical@gmail.com)
- c. It was also suggested that as publications are re-printed for future events, we should update the email address on them.
- d. Dave W. and Chris T. will consider other article ideas.
- e. A future issue (possibly January?) of the Forge will include the article about the first African-American family in El Cerrito (technically in Stege). They left El Cerrito in 1935 for San Francisco. The copy is nearly ready. While Joanne was

researching the family on Ancestry, she was contacted by a family member. She will look for photos to add.

**7.) Sparks:** Dave will write up the next Sparks, to include the Creedence events and more.

**8.) Railroad relics:** Dave may write something about the switching plate that was discovered on the Ohlone Greenway, and a piece of rail at Arlington Park that appears to be from the old Bates & Borland quarry.

**9.) Archiving:** Dianne has decided not to do the archiving after all, but John F. said he would pick it up. They will meet so Dianne can pass on what she has learned about it. Dave will also look for other people who might participate. While there is a thorough policy about what ECHS will accept for the collection, we should probably re-visit that and perhaps clarify what we want to collect.

**10.)**

**Adobe bricks:** There is no progress on this. San Pablo Historical Society may not exist much longer, and they already have an adobe brick. The County historical society is not taking donations. Our first choice now is the El Sobrante Historical Society, and Tom is to contact them. Second choice is the Pinole Historical Society. Chris T. will contact Jeff Rubin.

**11.) Book on Sally Rand:** There was some discussion on whether or not ECHS should purchase a copy of Barefoot to the Chin: The Fantastic Life of Sally Rand. Since she was only in El Cerrito for 2 months, it was agreed that Dave should try to get a copy of the book from the library, so we can review it and decide if it is something we want in the collection.

**12.) Preservation Issues:** Dave said he thought it was a good idea to provide a list of 90 historic buildings, in response to the city's request for 30. He said there is no plan to edit the list down, and the city did not ask that to be done. The minutes of the last meeting were inaccurate on this point.

**13.) Digitizing "El Cerrito Journal:"** The library has taken back some boxes of the Journals that we have been surveying towards possible, eventual digitization. It is unclear whether they will be taking them all back. Everybody was surprised by this news. Dave will talk to Tom about what happened/is happening. It is unclear if ECHS got a donation form from the library when the Journals were originally obtained. This puts the digitization project on hold, but Pat has kept all the survey sheets.