

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Board Meeting October 15, 2020

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

****Indicates Action Items**

1.) Minutes of prior meeting: There were no comments or corrections.

2.) Treasurer's Report: Pat Shaw provided the October report, reporting income of \$25 from dues and expenses of \$100, which was a donation to the Rialto Cinemas GoFundMe campaign. The Restricted Funds balance is \$5,500.00, the Unrestricted Funds balance is \$12,229.65. The Mechanics Bank Balance was \$17,729.65 as of September 30, 2020.

(Public Comment: There was none.)

3.) Diversity: Pat Durham, described as an energetic, retired CPA with a history of community involvement, is considering and being considered for a place on the Historical Society's Board. **** Dave will ask her for her C.V. and will invite her to attend the next Board meeting (November). **** Ms. Durham has a friend who may also be interested in joining the Board. The annual meeting (January) is the occasion where new members are nominated and voted onto the Board. We will consult the latest version of the by-laws, for any guidance about the size of the Board. Tom may reach out to his contacts within the Japanese-American community for possible candidates.

There was a reference to a book called How African Americans Came to be Segregated in Richmond by Rothstein, which details how the New Deal excluded non-whites. These policies deliberately made segregation second nature. It is not by accident that El Cerrito's population is only 5.4% black.

4.) Events:

- a. On October 22, we will have Karen Sorensen's talk about her book on Albany's history, presented virtually via Zoom. John is managing the technology and plans to have a run-through with the speaker prior to the live presentation. ECHS would like to record the talk, but so far, the speaker has not agreed. Dave will propose that we record it but not release it until and unless she agrees.
- b. At the annual meeting in January, Chris Sterba will give a talk on Hambone Kelly.

5.) Next Forge:

- a. The November issue will include:

- i. Joanne's article about the first Black family in El Cerrito. We need a few photos to go along with the article. Joanne has been in touch with descendants of the family, has asked if they have any photos we could use, and is awaiting a reply. Chris Treadway and Joanne will talk about photos in the context of laying out the article in the Forge. Joanne mentioned a small house built in 1907 on Portola at the BART tracks, a small, one-story Victorian, which she is trying to verify by identifying the original address.
- ii. an announcement of the annual meeting in January; and
- iii. regular items.
- b. Photos taken pre-1923 are copyright free. We talked about whether the Society is willing to pay for photos. We agreed to decide on a case-by-case basis, depending on the need and price. We should be aware and avoid using copyrighted photos without paying for them.
- c. Hambone Kelly article may run in January, in support of the presentation on this subject at the annual meeting. Joanne and Dave both have some of his LPs.

6.) Next Sparks:

- a. Rich Bartke's article on Ed McMillan;
- b. Famous El Cerritos – based on the “El Cerrito Notables” page of the ECHS website;
- c. Promotion of the Forge article. Promote membership -- join to receive the Forge regularly, by mail.

7.) Human Relations Commission: Dave replied in the affirmative to their initial inquiry about the proposed listening sessions by the Human Rights Commission. He has not heard back yet.

8.) Rialto Cinemas GoFundMe Campaign: This campaign, initiated to help support the Rialto Cinemas Cerrito Theater through the pandemic, has raised \$58K of their goal of \$75K. Successful but still needs more.

9.) Technical Assistance Grants from CA Historical Society: ****John is trying to get information from them.****

10.) Donations: Dave has been making donations from his own collection. He is also thinking we should consider re-organizing our collections in the vertical files in the Shadi Room. He suggests we consolidate “people” files in one place, “government” things together, “businesses” also. Perhaps it could be done by volunteers as a group effort (post-pandemic?). This is a core task, managing the collection, but it has been neglected.

11.) Website/YouTube: Chris Treadway continues to manage the Facebook page and he reports it does get some traffic.

12.) Misc:

- a. We will continue meeting on Thursdays, for the time being.

- b. ****John will produce address labels for the next Forge mailing.****
- c. Zoom license: The annual cost is \$149.90/year for a “small team” license, up to 100 people. This includes an unlimited number of meetings, and 1 gig of cloud recording space. It would be logistically easier if we had our own license; we could use the same identity as other media. Joanne made the motion, John seconded it. The vote in support was unanimous. **** John will take care of this.****

The meeting was adjourned.