

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 Treasurer's report for September. She reported income of \$200 from dues and donations, and no expenses. The Restricted Funds balance is \$5,500.00, the Unrestricted Funds balance is \$12,229.65. The Mechanics Bank Balance is \$17,987.28 as of August 31, 2020.
- 3.) Public Comment:** There was none.
- 4.) City Historic Resource Inventory:** Dave and Tom have finalized the list of historic resource properties in El Cerrito and provided it to City staff. The consultant's work on this is now on hold due to financial constraints. When funding is again available, work will resume.
- 5.) Human Relations Commission "listening sessions" on people talking about race:** Margo Parisi, chair of the Human Relations Commission, has contacted Dave about their upcoming project, a series of "listening sessions" for members of the community to share their experiences in El Cerrito with regard to race. These could include interactions with law enforcement, businesses, public schools, etc. She asked if the Historical Society would be interested in preserving these sessions, assuming the participants grant their permission. We agreed we would. **** Dave will talk with her to get further details, including whether or not these will be public sessions, and would they like us to do more, including help publicize the sessions.**
- 6.) Attracting people of color to the Society and Board:** There has been no progress on this.
- 7.) Rialto Cinemas GoFundMe campaign:** Rialto Cinemas (owner of the Cerrito and Elmwood Theaters) has opened a GoFundMe campaign to help with operating expenses during the shutdown. Their goal is to raise \$75k. We agreed to help publicize the campaign on our website and in our next newsletter. Further, John made a motion which Pat seconded, to give \$100 to the campaign. It was passed with no objections. **** John will send the link to Pat and Pat will make the donation.**
- 8.) Events:**
 - a.** October 22 is Karen Sorensen's talk on Albany history. It is posted on our Facebook page. Karen has said she doesn't want to be recorded. When John talks with her about setting up the Zoom event, he will gently try to persuade

her to allow recording. ** If she can provide a link, we can promote her book on our website.

9.) Technical Assistance Grant from CA Historical Society: John will follow up to get more information about this.

10.) Recent Donations and Tentative Donations:

- a. Doug Dempster, who was on staff of EC High School's Caballero has donated a large set of issues from the 1940s and 1950s. He also attended Kensington Hilltop school and has donated issues of that school's Hilltop News. We also received issues of the Kensington Outlook. Dave will bring them to the Shadi Room.
- b. We are still expecting a donation from Jack Freethy of materials about his father, Elmer Freethy, a local builder. Jack is also writing a memoir and is listing and photographing homes in his neighborhood near Arlington and Cutting. He has identified the home at 2544 Arlington as the work of important architect John Carl Warnecke.

11.) Next Sparks: Dave hopes to have another issue out soon. Topics to include:

- a. Promoting October event on Albany History;
- b. current renovation of the historic Cerrito Theater;
- c. Reports on interesting donations;
- d. the historic Leigh letter about the Castro visit.

12.) Next Forge:

- a. Dave and Chris continue to work with Marvin Collins on article about historic restaurants and bars.
- b. Joanne is finishing her article about the Walter Maddox family, the first black family in El Cerrito who arrived in 1898 and left in 1935. Mr. Maddox was an early member of the NAACP in California and built his home in the Stege area. ** Joanne will send Dave the address of the house, so Dave can see if it's still there.
- c. When ready, ** Joanne will send the article to Dave and Tom for review. ** Chris will do the layout. ** Dianne will also review/proof the article before printing
- d. Future topics:
 - i. Hambone Kelley cooperative
 - ii. Marvin's nightclub crawl
 - iii. Old Arlington Stable
 - iv. R.E. Meadows, El Cerrito's top builder

13.) Website/YouTube: John is keeping these up to date and posting new submissions. He has modified the "EC in Print" area so it is easier for users to see links. We are still looking for a second webmaster to work with John. ** Dave will send to John the link for the Bay Curious podcast on TEPCO, which ran in August. Dave helped

the reporter by providing information, but then they did not advise him when it would run. Also, a Chronicle columnist also wrote about TEPCO beach recently.

14.) **Society Procedures:** ** Dave will work with John regarding posting the public portions of Procedures on the website.

15.) **Other news:**

- a. Chris T. recently acquired a set of paper cocktail napkins from Figone's Six Bells from eBay.
- b. The Richmond Museum has a photo exhibit on the Black experience in North Richmond and the Parchester area during World War II. It is available online.

16.) **Adjourn**