

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Meeting August 20, 2019

Present: Tom Panas, Chris Treadway, David Weinstein, Chris Horn, Joannee Rubio, Pat Shaw

Also present, Dianne Brenner, who wrote these minutes.

Before commencing with the agenda, Dave reported that Barbara Hill has resigned from the Board due to the illness of her husband and caretaking. She has indicated that she is still interested in doing a genealogy program, but does not have time for archiving. She would assist someone in taking over that duty.

Tom Panas has been handling the open hours at the Historical Society's office. He reports an average of 1 – 2 visitors each time. There is a sign-in sheet, where they are asked to record what they are interested in. Dave asked if we could have a monthly report on visitor activity.

1. **Minutes of last meeting:** There were no questions and no discussion. Chris H moved to approve. Joanne R seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Pat distributed copies of the Financial Report for August 20, 2019. The bank balance is \$17,873.95.
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Senior Resource Fair October 2, 2019:** Dianne volunteered to staff the table (9:30 am – 12:00 pm) at the Community Center. She will collect the materials the day before from Pat. Joanne said she would ask Dale & Louise Perry to be back-up in case Dianne can't be there due to being out of town.
5. **Adobe Bricks:** Tom Panas will handle donating the remaining bricks and pieces according to the following plan.
 - a. El Cerrito Historical Society will keep one of the full-sized bricks (Tom to decide which one).
 - b. One to the Richmond Museum if they remain interested
 - c. One to either the Contra Costa Historical Society, or if they are not interested, one to El Sobrante Historical Society.
 - d. The smaller brick pieces will be offered to the Castro family. Joanne will handle the donation to the Castro family.
 - e. Tom made a motion to proceed according to this plan, and the vote was unanimous.
6. **Forge-Sparks-Website-Social Media:**
 - a. **Sparks:** Dave suggested our goal should be to issue a Sparks each month. Ed Crowley is a long-time member of the Historical Society, and he has agreed to take charge of our emailing and Sparks duties. He attended the July meeting
 - b. **Website:** John is doing the website for now, but probably doesn't want to continue permanently. He has been doing a lot of clean-up and updating. There are more back issues of the Forge to be added to the website.

- c. **Sign-ups:** The task of adding sign-ups (new names received from sign-up sheets at events) to the mailing list should probably transition to Ed. Pat only adds paid member names.
 - d. **Forge:** Janice Castro's article on the Castro family may be ready for the next Forge. There are some questions to be clarified before publication, such as the rancho boundaries, etc. Dave would like to include some photos, so with the text, this should be a large issue. Dianne said she did not receive the latest Forge, nor any other mailings or email from the organization. Pat will check her records to try and find an explanation for this.
 - e. **Marvin Collins, Jr. article:** He has agreed to write an article on old bars and restaurants in El Cerrito for a future Forge issue.
7. **Article for City Newsletter:** We've been asked if we could contribute small articles (300 words) to the city newsletter. Dave remarked that it's really hard to write only 300 words on a topic, nevertheless, people volunteered to contribute. Dave will check with Maya Williams about the schedule for these submissions.
- a. **A History of all El Cerrito Theaters – Dave**
 - b. **Famous Baseball Players of El Cerrito – Chris T.**
 - c. **Civil War vets in Sunset View Cemetery – Chris H.**
 - d. **El Cerrito gambling – Chris T.**
 - e. **The 1st African American family in El Cerrito – Joanne**
8. **Programs and Events:**
- a. **Cemetery Tour:** There were about 130 people on the tour. It was a great success!
 - b. **Proposed program on Pumpsie Green:** Chris Sterba said he will arrange this. Pete Ellman said he is willing to present a program at our next annual meeting. Likely to be a Sunday afternoon in January. Chris S. will work out a date with Pete.
 - c. **El Cerrito Pre-School** could also be a program subject. There is an old film about it, Preschool Patterns, which was made by the son of one of the founders, Adeline Brunner. Chris Sterba will work on arranging this.
 - d. **Berkeley Country Club:** did not return several calls intended to inquire about doing a program on the Club's centenary. Joanne mentioned that a member of the Castro family was the contractor who built (also designed?) the golf course there, as well as several others in the area.
 - e. **The History of Albany:** This idea was rejected, at least for the time being.
 - f. **Creedence Event:** Friday October 11 will be a reception at City Hall, with a program to follow Sunday, October 13 at the Community Center. Dave will look into making a video recording of the program. Chris T. is not available to do it. Dave made a motion to approve spending up to \$700 on the display panels. Tom seconded and it passed unanimously. The panels will be on display at City Hall. ECHS will own the panels and we can probably make up a brochure from them.
 - g. **Pioneer Days:** Joanne presented a draft survey form, to be used to identify candidates for this program. She mentioned that at the City's 50th anniversary, they also honored pioneers. Joanne has a list of names from that event, and she is using that in her research to find people. A few minor changes were suggested for the form. Joanne will have the form ready for the Senior Resource Fair October 2.

- h. Genealogy Program:** Barbara Hill is working on this.
- 9. Recent Donations:** Gerry "The Maestro" and Alice Gaxiola have donated some materials related to Creedence Clearwater Revival. Some from very early in their career. We also expect a donation from the son of a former EC police officer of an 8 mm film showing the controlled burn of the old city hall in the mid 1950s. Also, Chris T. has received from the Internet Archive a 15 minute home movie of the Ranch San Pablo. He has donated a copy of it to the EC Historical Society. Dave will write up an item about this film for Sparks. That brings up the topic of archiving. Since Barbara is no longer archiving, we need someone to volunteer to pick up the archiving. Dianne Brenner volunteered, contingent on the opportunity to learn the Past Perfect software.
- 10. Preservation Issues:** Sean (city government) has asked for a list of 30 buildings in El Cerrito that we think are important to save. Tom and Dave are working on this. Sean would like to have the list in the next week or so. Dave reports the Rodini house has been boarded up. This is good news, as it may help protect it.
- 11. Digitizing EC Journal:** Pat reported that she will try to schedule another meeting for working on this in the next week or so.
- 12. Les Blank Movie at the Cerrito:** Coming Wed., Sept. 27 at 7 pm. Special guests to include Maureen Gosling, Blank's collaborator, Chris Strachwitz, possibly Harrod Blank. Help spread the word.
- 13. Nomination for Governor's Historic Preservation Award:** Dianne reported she has been in touch with the people running this program, and they say we should hear any day now about the decisions.