

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Board Meeting February 18, 2021

Present: David Weinstein, Chris Treadway, Dianne Brenner, Pat Shaw, Tom Panas, Pat Durham, Joanne Rubio

****Indicates Action Items**

- 1.) Minutes:** The minutes were approved as revised, with no comments or corrections.
- 2.) Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Pat S. provided the Treasurer's report, dated February 18, 2021. She reported income of \$185 from dues and donations, and expenses of \$636.42. The Restricted Funds balance is \$5,500.00, the Unrestricted Funds balance is \$12,224.69. The Mechanics Bank Balance was \$17,724.69 as January 31, 2021. Pat also reported three new members.
- 3.) Board Member Comments – not on Agenda:** The San Pablo City Council has decided to sell the Alvarado Adobe. There has been no decision yet as to what will be done with their collection. It is hoped that any buyer of the Adobe will be encouraged to retain the historic look of the building.
- 4.) Public Comments:** None
- 5.) Events:**
 - a. Pat Durham plans to present a virtual program on the history of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in El Cerrito, in May.
 - b. We need a topic and a presenter for a presentation in March or April.
- 6. By-law revisions:** We need the by-laws to provide more clarity on process. Tom will look over the existing by-laws and will draft new language for election-related procedures, as well as others. There was a question about how many Board members we can have. Tom will check and report back next meeting, but it is thought 9 is the limit.
- 7. Historic Map of El Cerrito:** In discussing plans for the map, Dave said that the Trail Trekkers map lists 60 places. We are planning to use the same size and style as that map. ****Dave asked everyone to think of ideas for places to be listed. He agreed to circulate his list of ideas, so people can review and nominate additional places.****
- 8. Photos for exhibit at Creedence apt. building:** Tom reminded everyone that it's important we adhere to any limits on copyright permissions for any photographs we may provide. Dave said he will connect the Creedence people to photo sources directly. This exhibit on the history of music in El Cerrito will consist of about 20 photos. This effort has inspired the idea of presenting our own exhibit on this subject, possibly in 2022. David Washburn has done a paper on country music in El Cerrito. Also, Nat King Cole played at the Kona Club in 1948. (or was it 1938?)
- 9. Sparks:**

- a. The next issue of Sparks will include a link to Chris Sterba's talk.
- b. the Freethy family
- c. Eve Ma's film on immigration to the Bay Area
- d. Martin Luther King
- e. Alvarado Adobe
- f. Membership Drive
- g. If the City of El Cerrito obtains releases from speakers at the El Cerrito Truth and Reconciliation sessions, we may consider linking to that information from our website.

10. **Forge:**

- a. Dave intended the lead article of the next issue to be on Dr. Morris, but he has had trouble reaching the family. Pat D. said she'd help. She may have another candidate for an article subject. Gerald Martin is the outgoing President of the NAACP. He was a founder 50 years ago, and he is 95 now. If Pat can arrange a contact, Dave will do the interview by Zoom.
- b. Several old buildings that were behind Connors Garage Door have been razed. They were lacking historical integrity. There was a discussion of all the new development along San Pablo Ave., and the possibility of losing the city's history.
- c. History of the Keystone Montessori School
- d. Jon Bashor is writing an article on Walter Maddox, a civil rights activist, for the June issue. We have some photos from Stege School that include one of Mr. Maddox's daughters.
- e. Our archive doesn't have much on the history of the Black community. We could compile a new Arcadia book devoted to the Black community in El Cerrito.
- f. Jon Bashor is thinking of doing an article on barbershops in El Cerrito.
- g. Wilson family: Dave is trying to get Mina to write about her family history.
- h. History of Murietta Rock, a prominent landmark.
- i. Robert Livermore
- j. The Italian Community in El Cerrito
- k. There may be other ideas for articles in our Historical Context Statement

11. **Website:**

- a. Dave suggested that we try to make a video out of the audio recording of Tom's cemetery tour, by pairing up the recording with still photos that Dave took during the tour. ****Tom suggested we ask John F. to try creating a short segment just as a trial, to see if the idea works.****
- b. Chris Sterba talk.
- c. User-friendliness. John has been doing a lot of work on the site, adding items, etc., but the user-friendliness probably still needs improvement.

12. **Update to the San Pablo Ave. Specific Plan:** Tom says the scoping document for this update looks "OK" as regards impact on historic sites. The SEIR probably will not be out for another year.

13. **Adjourn.**