

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Meeting July 21, 2020

Present: David Weinstein, Dianne Brenner, John Falconer, Pat Shaw, Tom Panas, 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 June 16 to July 21, 2020. She reported income of \$110 (dues) and no expenses for this period. The total Restricted Funds balance is \$5,500, and Unrestricted Funds total \$12,463.53, and the June 30, 2020 bank balance is \$17,853.53

3.) Public Comment: ~~There was none.~~

4.) Events:

- a. Karen Sorensen's talk on Albany history is scheduled for October 22 at 7 p.m. It will be a virtual presentation via Zoom. Karen's talk is also intended to promote her new book and John will research whether or not we can put a link to the publisher on our website. ****Dave** will do publicity about the talk. It was agreed to do a test run of the program at least one day ahead of the scheduled date. ****John** will arrange this and ****Dave** will send to John contact info. for Karen.
- b. We decided to delay getting a Zoom account for the Historical Society, due to the cost involved. Instead we will continue to use the service as we have been, using board members' accounts. Once we see how this event goes, we may use Zoom to present other events.

5.) Technical Assistance from California Historical Society: The CA Historical Society is initiating a program to provide technical assistance to local historical societies to support their work. We are considering applying for a grant to support our archiving. We'd like to move towards a cloud-based collection, at least the catalogued items, to facilitate access by interested persons. **** John** is a member of the CA Historical Society, so he will look for more information about this grant program.

6.) People of Color and ECHS: We are aware of the absence of people of color among this organization's general membership and board. ****We** should each consider asking people we know to get involved. To help introduce people to the work of the ECHS, we could ask people to help organize events. Tom has a few people in mind that he could ask. It would be good to move on this prior to the annual meeting. Chris T. suggested possible places to do outreach: CME Church, Rosie the Riveter site volunteers, Red Oak Victory volunteers. Members need not live in El Cerrito.

7.) Recent Donations:

- a. Castro Family letter: David Lee has offered to provide (a copy of?) a letter about an early visit with the Castro family, but in the weeks since, he has been silent. Joanne will be in touch with him and will follow up.
- b. "Flat Top" Smith archive: We have received this archive. "Flat Top" was an early El Cerrito builder and developer. Dave has organized the materials, and John said he can scan them. We need to try and identify people in the photos. Elmer and Jack Freethy's lumberyard figures in the collection.

8.) EC Historical Society Procedures: ****Tom** is still working on finishing his part. He asked ****Dave** to remind him weekly to help push him to get this finished before his campaign for School Board really gets going.

9.) Next Forge:

- a. Idaho Hotel: Dave has some new information about this site, so will do an updated article about it.
- b. Mailing and Labels: Pat will need help with the mailing labels, and ****John** said he will print both the mailing labels and the return address labels. Pat will assemble the mailing, as usual.

10.) Paying for the Forge:

- a. Postage: Postage up to 1.1 oz. costs .70, and for each additional ounce it costs an additional .15. Together, ****Pat and Chris** will figure out the costs for both a 6 and 8 page issue, to include using the current paper, printing, postage, envelopes, limited colored ink. They are to report on this at the next meeting (August).

11.) Sparks: We will start posting teaser articles on the website, prior to (electronic) issuing of each issue. The goal is monthly publication of Sparks.

12.) IT Club T-shirt: There was a brief discussion of the fact that such t-shirts exist, and whether the Society should purchase one. The general consensus was not to.

13.) Website/YouTube: John has a log of items and media that are being posted on the website and YouTube. We still need the video from Alec Paleo's Creedence talk.

****Chris** is to send to John the video of the Pumpsie Green talk. We can also post video-only items.

14.) Gary Noe and former Chung Mei residents: Gary Noe has been referred to someone who may be able to help him locate and contact his childhood friends who were residents of the Chung Mei home.

15.) The meeting was adjourned.