

El Cerrito Historical Society

Minutes of Meeting May 21, 2020

Present: David Weinstein, Dianne Brenner, John Falconer, Tom Panas (until 6 pm), Chris Treadway, Ed Crowley

We met virtually, over Zoom, due to the Covid-19 emergency. It worked very well.

**\*\*** indicates action items.

- 1.) Minutes of prior meeting:** We did not review the minutes.
- 2.) Treasurer's Report:** Pat Shaw reported (by email) Income for the prior month (dues) totaling \$285 and expenses of \$40.02. Restricted funds total \$5,500.00 and Unrestricted Funds total \$12,884.10. As of April 30, 2019 the Mechanics Bank balance is \$18384.10. Pat also reported a correction to April 2019 Financial Report: Dues Income was \$410, not \$460.
- 3.)** There was no public comment.
- 4.) Covid Pandemic in El Cerrito:** Dianne and Chris T. and others said they are taking photos around town of the impact of the pandemic – photos of signs in storefronts and photos of tape lines on sidewalks, for example. There was a discussion about creating a space on the website and/or the Facebook page for people to submit their photos, so we can have a record of this historic episode. **This was discussed further after the meeting was adjourned. See below.**
- 5.) Cerrito Theater and National Registry listing:** There is general consensus that this is not a good time for fundraising (to cover the cost of the Friends of the Cerrito Theater hiring Jerri Holan to write the application). The Friends may decide instead to find out exactly how much Ms. Holan could accomplish for the \$2,000 that the Friends currently have available. The Friends want to use up this money, that's the reason for doing this now.
- 6.) Events:** The next scheduled event, on Earl "Flat-top" Smith, will be postponed. Dave will advise Mr. Smith's children. We decided not to try to do it via Zoom, thinking that this presentation would best be done in person. The Albany history program could possibly be done on Zoom, however. There is a delay in publishing the book, so this may possibly be done in September.
- 7.) Forge:** The article on "Flat-top" Smith will be published as planned, with a note that the program has been postponed to an as-yet-unscheduled date.
  - a. Dave's goal is to produce quarterly issues of The Forge.

- b. Paying for The Forge: (the increased expense of the new version) Chris T. has not yet had a chance to look into options for reducing the cost. It cost \$500 to produce the most recent Forge, while prior issues cost \$250. For the next issue, the plan is to have one article (on “Flat-top” Smith) with some good photos. This will be done in Black & White, so will cost less than the last issue.

**8.) Sparks:** For the next Sparks, an article is planned on architect John Carl Warnecke, who designed Mira Vista School in East Richmond Heights, and who allegedly had an affair with and nearly married Jacqueline Bouvier (before she married John F. Kennedy). Mr. **Warnecke** was the court **architect** of the Kennedy administration and the designer of John F. Kennedy's grave site at Arlington National Cemetery.

**9.) Membership Drive:** We decided not to take this on now.

**10.) Website and YouTube channel:** John announced that more videos are now up on the website, including videos from Trail Trekkers. John continues cleaning up the website. Tom is still doing final work on the EC Historical Society Context statement.

**11.) EC Historical Society Procedures:** Prior to the next Board Meeting, we plan to have a meeting dedicated to discussing this manual. The date is Friday, June 5 at 10 a.m.

**12.) Email accounts:** There was a discussion of the functions of the two separate email accounts we currently have.

- a. John and Chris monitor and handle incoming mail on the account associated with our Google identity (Facebook, YouTube).
- b. Ed uses the “ECHistSocSec” account for mailing out Sparks. Dianne, as Society Secretary, is now also receiving any mail that comes in on that account, to be sure they are acknowledged and responded to as necessary. There is no need for Dianne to do anything about messages that indicate bad addresses – Ed will take care of those. \*\* This should be made part of the procedures manual.

The meeting was adjourned, but the discussion continued.

\*\* People should be thinking of future article topics for the Forge.

\*\* Our entire archive should ultimately be on the website. New items, such as photos about the pandemic, should go directly to the website. **John and Ed will draft** procedures for this, focusing on establishing principles, without reference to brand names. It is easy to upload photos to the Facebook page, though the resolution of photos on FB is lower than optimal. The best would be a link off of our website.

\*\* Chris T. will write about the pandemic for Sparks and get it to Dave this week. Our archive has very little on the flu pandemic of 1918-19. Chris T. will send what photos there may be to Dave, and Chris will also confirm our access and permission to publish them.