

Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society Minutes

4 October 2018

Call to Order: President Dr. Jim Paul called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance: Faith Quigley, Dr. Jim Paul, Gary Seiner, Frank Koehler, Charles Balesi, Sandie Pedraja Ortiz, Wal Schuler, Laurel Soper, Connie, Sandi Sandeno, Mimi Raich, Bonnie Bergeron, Norma Meier, Jenny Tanner, Nelda Ravens, and Mary Ann Lamert.

Minutes:

-Nelda stated that Malette's name was to be crossed out of the attendance list.

-Nelda made a motion to accept the minutes, Sandie Ortiz seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report and Finances:

-Dr. Paul made note of Tim in Mexico currently.

-*Fleur de Lis Dinner* recap:

-There was a \$2800 profit.

-Each dinner was \$55/\$65 each, \$10 profit on every member and \$20 profit on every nonmember.

-Some expenses included dinner, wine, Brad Benoit, the plaque, etc.

-Charles Balesi read the letter sent to him and Dr. Paul.

-Olivet Nazarene University committed to contributing \$15,000 to the log house and a \$5000 first installment was promised the following week. John C. Bowling promised a personal contribution of \$1000.

-Lynn O'Brian contacted Jim about a possible Homestar Bank donation for the log school house.

-Gary made copies of tax-exempt forms and placed them in the drawer.

-Tim is resigning as treasurer with his term ending after the December meeting.

Membership Report:

-Bonnie gave the report as follows:

-161 total names on membership list

-49 paid for the new year with 8 having used PayPal

-6 new paid members

-61 total lifetime members

-35 members not paid

Ways and Means/Programming/Publicity:

-After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, Frank Koehler, a member of the Rotary Club and BGHS, gave a presentation about the *Fleur de Lis* dinner.

-JoJo Sayson wants a greater French influence on the private investments of area development.

-French Heritage Day Celebration is proposed and discussed

-Budget needs to include vendors, music, corporation contributions, etc.

-Group could reach out to Bank of Montreal or Canadian International

-Frank discussed the area wide 2019 schedule to decide a date

-Bastille Day is between Friendship Festival and Merchant Street Festival so a potential date could lie around the end of June

-The celebration could take place outdoors and we'd have 9 months of preparation time to organize

-Laurel overheard at dinner, Monsieur Hood from Quebec spoke to a group of people including Vic Johnson about coordinating a French celebration. Vic mentioned the old 100 year celebration

-Norma asked if there's a French celebration at Maternity again and it was mentioned that it would land on 2019 if so

-Dr. Paul asked if a committee could be formed to organize such a day and potential members could include: Michelle Meier, Jenny Tanner, or Vic Johnson

-Frank will contact the chair of the Friendship Festival to assure Laurel's worries about it not being a good decision to take advantage of the friendship festival

-Lauren indicated that members should add names to comment section when paying through PayPal to help with identifying the name of guests at the celebration dinner.

-*Fleur de Lis*:

-Jim passed out hard copies of *Fleur de Lis* Program.

-Brad Benoit wants to come back in future years but with a variety song agenda.

-There are two possible individuals from a distance away that could provide entertainment.

-Some ideas for future entertainment include: cabaret dancing, jazz a la France, street performers, selling treats, French sports, or local artists

-Norma mentioned Dr. Paul as the MC and giving a presentation would be interesting.

-Dominic Bray was mentioned regarding presentation topic.

-Laurel suggested the Voyagers she saw at an event years ago. She also proposed one of Dave King's old musicians.

-Dr. Paul mentioned a personal friend as potential entertainment.

-Dr. Paul made note of thanking donors in newsletter. Sandie Pedraja Ortiz will write notes to donors without e-mail addresses and Laurel will ensure she has supplies to do so.

-News articles were mentioned

- Bastille Day celebrations in July show Norma and Ken on the front page of the Herald
- The *Daily Journal* and *The Herald* covered the French Council Visit
- The Herald* covered Dr. Paul's article
- The Perry Farm article was passed around
- The Herald* covered a page on George Letourneau
- There is a chaperone needed for Sunday's open house, Sandie Pedraja Ortiz volunteered and is willing to Bonnie will come to let her in and lock up as well.
- Dr. Paul requested that another poster board be done for the 2018 *Fleur de Lis* dinner.
- Volunteers were discussed
 - Laurel said she's tried to make contact with Kathy Taylor who is willing to be a host every 1st Sunday of the month. Kathy will get back to Laurel this week about October.
 - Kim Morrison is interested in helping.
 - a Mr. Regnier wants to help with schoolhouse.
- Bonnie mentioned membership renewal date concerns.
 - A decision is needed.
 - Bonnie made a motion for the renewal date to be moved from March 1st to June 1st. Gary seconds, all were in favor.
 - Laurel checked the by-laws and nothing is stated about renewal date changes.
- The Craft Fair was mentioned to take place on Saturday December 1st from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- The Christmas open house will take place on Sunday, December 16th. Gary will chaperone both of December's Sundays.

Building and Grounds:

- Saturday, November 17th is a workday in the gardens from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- The village will clear brush the following Wednesday
- Letourneau's face needs to be changed on the sign
- Norma made a motion to enhance his face on the sign, Mary Ann seconded, all were in favor.
- Jim presented a certificate of liability from 1999.
- The bathroom door's doorknob is broken without a screw to hold it in. Without a secured doorknob, it may be unsafe, and Gary proposed removing the doorknob until a screw is placed.
- Wal suggested a light be put over the house entrance, and she plans to speak to Russ and ask him of the favor.
- Sandi Sandeno wants signs for the machinery in the garden areas. Dr. Paul discusses supplies for that.

-Sandi Sandeno wants to fix the organ but Gary refuted that by explaining how Ken played it at the previous meeting. It was hard to pump but was able to be played so a possible bellows fix might be necessary. Laurel offered her time to help.

Curator's Report: none

New Business:

-Norma was given the *Fleur de Lis* award at the dinner and expressed her thankfulness.

-Mayor Paul Schore asked Charles for connections to sister French and Quebec cities. There was a file made but there wasn't contact again. It's estimated that Jean-Francois Hould and Paul Schore has communicated on the matter.

-Further communication could be taken by a committee comprised of BGHS members, the mayor or someone from city hall and a French or Canadian delegate.

-There is mention of Chicago-Paris sister city committee

-Ideas will be put on paper for Dr. Paul to review

Old Business:

-Nelda discussed the Van Meter Cemetery Eagle Scout project.

-The Eagle Scouts received permission from Bradley to proceed.

-They are using electric lines to put lights on the monument and flag.

-They are planning to find a donation of a ladder.

-Security Lumber changed their donation amount to minimal numbers.

-Lambert Monuments is donating the monument.

-So far, the base, pole, electricity and everything else is done.

-Ryland Gagnon will report on the project and there will be an interview done.

-Laurel made an inquiry regarding the board meeting and was let known of its cancellation.

-There hasn't been a decision on the beehives yet.

Comments: none

Adjournment:

Bonnie made a motion to adjourn, Laurel seconded, all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Faith Quigley