

Minutes of Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society Meeting May 5, 2016

BGHS Vice-President Ken Ponton presided over the meeting and brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Those members in attendance in addition to Mr. Ponton were Tim Arseneau, Charles Balesi, Bonnie Bergeron, Daron Kinzinger, Bruce Moran, Jim Paul, Judy Ponton, Marsha Rabideau, Wal Schuler, Gary Seiner, Laurel Soper, and Ellen Stringer. Nelda Ravens of the Bradley Historical Society was also in attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting were unavailable but Dr. Paul (who did not attend that meeting) submitted a report memorandum for that meeting. The minutes of the March 3, 2016 and Dr. Paul's report for the April 7, 2016 meeting were approved. That motion was made by Ms. Soper and seconded by Mr. Seiner.

Under the Treasurer's Report, Mr. Arseneau stated that as of March 31, 2016, the regular checking account had \$10,719.35 in it, and the windows account had \$5,539.65 in it. Ms. Bergeron made a motion to accept the Treasure's Report and pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Ms. Soper. Motion carried.

Under Membership Report, Ms. Soper announced that today she mailed a thank you letter with membership cards to all who have paid their dues for this year. The members discussed the value of reviving the annual dinner as a perk for members. Ms. Ravens mentioned how much the Bradley Historical Society members appreciated their annual dinner. Ms. Schuler volunteered to research various venues and cuisine (perhaps a French-Canadian cuisine) for the dinner. The membership agreed that the dinner should be in the fall and called the BGHS Fall Fest. Dr. Paul made that motion which was seconded by Dr. Balesi. Motion carried.

Under Curator Report, Ms. Rabideau announced that she is continuing to inventory all artifacts and that she plans to create, with Mr. Seiner's assistance, sketches of Bourbonnais historic homes with essential information on notecards.

Under the Ways and Means Report, Ms. Stringer announced that she has to date 19 vendors for the upcoming Les Artisans Arts and Craft Fair July 4, 2016 event and 18 vendors for the December 3, 2016 event. The rental cost of \$1050 for the Fair Grounds building is due today. Mr. Arseneau stated that he would pay it tomorrow. He will also book the Fair Grounds for next years' craft fairs on July 4, 2017 and December 2, 2017. Concern was raised about the vendors' checks. Mr. Kinzinger mentioned that he believes that as of January 1, 2016, the checks must be for a donation, not for rental space. The membership agreed to ask attorney Glenn Bouman to check this matter out. He will also be asked to get a copy write on the *Les Artisans* name. Mr. Ponton mentioned that the Walter Charlton Foundation will make donations for projects applied for in writing.

Under the Building and Grounds Report, Mr. Seiner stated that the home needed dusting and that the installation of the new outside lights for the flag is still needed; a new flag is needed; the weather stripping under the front door had not been done yet; painting the interior of the home is needed as there are many bad spots up and downstairs; and he will bring a drawing of a pseudo hanging kerosene lamp chandelier for the dining room. He also requested (and was given) permission to continue trimming the shrubbery around the home. The membership thanked Mr. Ponton for repairing the east side broken window. Mr. Ponto said he would repair the Letourneau sign for \$150 and put it back in the same spot in order not to disturb the time capsule. Dr. Paul requested volunteers to assist the master gardeners on Saturday May 21 from 8-10 am in planting the heirloom annuals.

Under Unfinished Business, the membership was informed that the wind chime had been taken down.

Under New Business, Ms. Bergeron mentioned that the DAR wants to relocate the historical marker from the municipal building to the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve. She also mentioned that the Kankakee Women's Club plans to put the sculptures of the three Kankakee governors in Beckman Park or on our preserve. Dr. Balesi mentioned that the French government has reinstated voluntary service. An \$800/month 12 month contract will be given to each young person to work abroad assisting a not-for-profit-organization. This internship would be reciprocal. Mr. Arseneau volunteered to start a conversation with ONU History Professor Steven Lowe about this possibility. Mr. Kinzinger will purchase a new answer machine. Ms. Bergeron mentioned that all the trees had been cut down at the historic Bergeron Grove.

Mr. Arseneau moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Bergeron seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Jim Paul, Secretary