

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—December 2, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Jim Paul called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He hosted and presided over the meeting. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**ATTENDANCE:** In addition to Jim Paul, Charles Balesi, Daron Kinzinger, Christine and Max Michels, Steve Monts, Ken and Judy Ponton, Josue Savoi, Gary Seiner, and Wal Schuler attended.

**PRESENTATION:** The membership discussed “Can you identify this local historical person?”—from November/December 2021 issue of BGHS News eletter). After several minutes of discussion among the members, Gary correctly identified the person as Mary (Lesage) Letourneau.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the November 4, 2021 minutes were approved. The motion was made by Charles and seconded by Max.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Steve provided the bank balances as of November 30, 2021: general account \$23,362.60; log schoolhouse account \$64,031.76; and windows account \$435.99. The former CD (\$6,534.23) is now part of the general account. Several bills were paid including the \$1,600 for tree trimming to Four Seasons. Christine made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Gary seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**MEMBERSHIP:** No report.

**COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE:** Jim reviewed the log schoolhouse items listed in the November/December 2021 news eletter. The Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee will meet in January to discuss these items.

**WAYS AND MEANS:**

- Members volunteered to sit at the BGHS table during the upcoming Saturday December 4 *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Show: Steve volunteered for 9-11 am, Christine volunteered for 11 am-1 pm, and Gary volunteered for 1-3 pm;
- Daron reported on his meeting with Nicole Smolkovich of the Community Foundation of the Kankakee River Valley. As a result of that meeting, Daron recommends the CFKRV Pass Through Fund investment option. The Community Foundation manages approximately \$40 million. He was told that the fee would be 2.5% of any generated revenue from our deposits and our organization could withdraw our total balance if we deem necessary. At this time, Daron is not recommending the Endowment option which would only charge a 1.5% fee but would lock-in our primary funds with interest-only withdrawals. The Endowment option has a long term focus and we must be cognizant of short-term needs given our current financial status. If excess funds become available in the future, the Endowment option might be a viable option. The board would need to vote to approve such an investment if it is desired. After membership approval, Daron will solicit a decision from our board of directors for BGHS investment in the Pass Through Fund.
- Jim announced that he received a November 18 email in response to his applying for Kankakee County Covid-19 relief—for non-profit organizations that could not fund raise in 2020 or 2021. The email stated: “We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that your financial documentation did not show a negative financial impact during the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore is not eligible for American Rescue Plan Act funding.”

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

- Laurel is in the process of putting the garden layout on the website.

- Jim stated that in keeping with the fencing design of the 1883 sketch of the Letourneau Home, two types of fencing (one from Lowe's and the other from Menard's) might be appropriate. He said that creating a southwest fence corner with 60 feet of fence along the west sidewalk and another 60 feet extending south (near the apartments) would form a nice visual boundary for our museum and log schoolhouse campus. Christine expressed support for the Lowe's vinyl fencing. Jim will show Charles the fencing at Lowe's to see if this is agreeable with him. Daron suggested that we check any village ordinance regarding fencing.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Regarding the Maternity BVM 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (to be celebrated on April 29-30, 2022 and August 20-21, 2022), Jim reviewed his November 29 meeting with the MBVM anniversary leadership committee chairs and two attending "history committee" members. Interviews and tours will be the main focus of the history committee. The tours on Sunday August 21 will include church grounds and St. Viator/ONU buildings. ONU History Professor Dr. Kyle Robinson has suggested that his students become involved by placing QR codes on the four buildings at ONU that were formerly in use at St. Viator College. The QR codes would take the people to web pages where they could view original images of the buildings, read articles about their history, and may even listen to oral histories about life in those buildings. His students could help collaborate with writing the articles and finding the images. Jim will also ask them to lead the tours of the ONU grounds.
- The Saturday February 5, 2022 Chocolate Tour was discussed. A motion was made by Ken to skip the Chocolate Tour in 2022. Daron seconded the motion. Motion carried. Jim will notify Lindy Casey of the decision.
- The membership agreed that the Letourneau Home/Museum should remain open during December. Gary volunteered to chaperon the open houses on December 5 and 19. The membership decided that the December 19 Christmas open house will be a "low key" event (due to the spread of the Omicron variant) and not publicize to the general public.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- The members decided that the next BGHS membership meeting will be Zoom only at 7:00 pm on February 3, 2022, and that there will be no membership meeting in January.
- BGHS officers were nominated. President: Jim Paul, Vice-President: Gary Seiner, Executive Vice-President: Ken Ponton, Secretary:\_\_\_\_\_, Corresponding Secretary: Christine Michels, and board of trustees: Daron Kinzinger, Malette Trudeau-Stevenson, Jim Paul, Gary Seiner, and Josue Savoie. Charles made a motion that the nominations be closed. Max seconded the motion. Motion carried. *Ipsa facto*, the officers were elected.
- Jim gave updates on: the French Heritage Corridor progress; new BGHS YouTube Episode 2: Antebellum Abolitionists (1838-60); and upcoming events (to be listed in next news eletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul