

BOURBONNAIS GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING—March 10, 2022 (action items are in red)

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

ATTENDANCE: In addition to Jim Paul, Charles Balesi, Daron Kinzinger, Christine and Max Michels, Steve Monts, Jean (Legris) and Roy Pekoc, Ken Ponton, Marcia Rabideau, Gary Seiner, and Josue Savoi attended.

PRESENTATION: The membership then discussed “Can you identify these local historical persons?”—from the February/March 2022 issue of BGHS News eletter). After several minutes of discussion among the members, the persons were identified as Thomas and Margaret Durham.

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 3, 2022 meeting were corrected and approved. The motion was made by Ken and seconded by Steve. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Steve provided the bank balances as of February 28, 2022: general account \$20,710.05; log schoolhouse account \$64,038.07; and windows account \$451.01. The former CD (\$6,534.23) is now part of the general account. After explaining the bills that were paid a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay the bills was made and seconded. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT: Christine stated that she had forwarded some emails (from the BGHS website “Drop Us a Line”) to Jim, but he has not received them. She will re-forward them to him. She mentioned that the emails included the Strawberry Festival date, a movie about the St. Joseph River (Michiana Public Media), a person by the name of Pam Walter, and Wright in Kankakee tours are restarting.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT COLLECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: Ken stated that the Royal Blue door/window is too big to accept as an artifact. He and Jim are continuing to receive information about log schoolhouse artifacts. As the membership discussed moving items from the Letourneau Home/Museum to the log schoolhouse, Marcia mentioned how important it was to keep track of what is moved.

MEMBERSHIP: No report.

WAYS AND MEANS:

- 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.

- Daron volunteered to take the signed contract for the craft show exhibition hall to the Kankakee County Fairgrounds person in charge.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

- Daron wondered if the BGHS could get a mowing discount since the log schoolhouse construction is going on. We currently pay \$90 per mowing which includes trimming. Jim stated that he would not ask Paul Grezlak for a discount since he had negotiated a very low price several years ago, that gas prices are high, and that Paul will need to do more trimming once the schoolhouse and its landscaping is complete.
- Laurel will put the garden information from Gary and Marcia on the website in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS: The membership agreed that the Letourneau Home/Museum should remain open during April except for Easter. Ken volunteered to chaperon the open houses on April 3.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Jim asked the membership to consider when it would be safe for all members to attend the monthly membership meetings in person at the Letourneau Home/Museum. Christine suggested that we meet outside, but others said that the weather and mosquitos would interfere.
- Jim reiterated Daron's suggestion that there be a restructuring of the BGHS in which all current officers join the current board members on one Board of Directors. The monthly meetings would combine board and membership issues. A more defined committee structure will be included. Jim and Daron will work on bylaw language to submit to the membership in the near future.
- Jim tabled the idea of a Scholarship Committee that would revive the BGHS annual scholarship for a Kankakee County high school junior or senior. Once the BGHS has been restructured, Jim will bring the issue up again so that a committee may be formed to: 1) determine the amount of the scholarship, 2) how it should be awarded, and 3) when shall it be awarded.
- Jim also tabled the issue of establishing a YouTube Channel Committee until the restructuring is accomplished.
- The membership addressed Josue's travel plans so that he can attend the French Heritage Corridor Conference in May and reach O'Hare Airport for his trip to Newfoundland.
- The members decided that the next BGHS membership meeting will be Zoom only at 7:00 pm on April 7, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. Respectfully submitted by Jim Paul