

Minutes of Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society Board Meeting

October 24, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Paul at 5:00 pm at the Letourneau Home in Bourbonnais. All three board members (Gary Seiner, Daron Kinzinger, and Jim) were present. All board members joined in expressing gratitude to the BGHS officers for a job well done this past year. Jim mentioned his plan for the Letourneau Home gardens and the Adrien Richard Heritage Preserve to be on the Garden Walk in the near future. The Garden Walk would reintroduce the property to the community as a whole. The board discussed how the gardens and preserve could be open to the public for strolling and picnics (which might necessitate trash cans). The board agreed that if a gazebo is built on the preserve, it could be used for weddings; and that portapotties would only be used if clients for weddings paid for them.

Gary mentioned that the outhouse needs a lock, the pump needs to be painted red, and that a dry sink is needed for the kitchen. He wondered about the earliest year that an "ice box" would have been used in the house. **Gary made a motion that the sewing machine and small radiator should switch places and that a glass top be placed on the radiator with a picture and documentation about the house and family that the radiator came from. Daron seconded the motion. Motion carried. Gary made a second motion that the two oval pictures be moved to another wall in order to accommodate a large map of Bourbonnais. Daron seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Gary indicated that he is willing to draw three dimensional images of historical sites on this map. Patrons who tour the Letourneau Home could then see other historical sites in the area. He further suggested that the television from the 1950s be placed in the new "Display Room" (former "Sewing Room").

Daron mentioned his concern that the BGHS continue to stay on course with the "education emphasis." He suggested accessing the community center with education programs. The board discussed the options within the education mission of the society. **After this discussion, Daron made a motion that the BGHS continue with the 400th anniversary celebration of Quebec project, but also continue to develop the project that involves a walking tour using the pictures from Milette Trudeau's DVD collaboration. Gary seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

A general discussion followed regarding the Letourneau Home, tours, and volunteers. **After this discussion, Daron made a motion that a recorded introduction to the home and grounds with a room-by-room description be created so that patrons may use a hand-held audio device as they tour the home. Gary seconded the motion. Motion carried.** The board preferred that Vic Johnson be the narrator of this audio tour. Jim suggested that volunteers might be more comfortable with this audio enhancement as they "house sit" on Sundays that the museum is open. He further suggested that the State University Annuitants Association members (local meetings at KCC) be approached to serve as "docents" for the museum. Perhaps Nancy could develop a brief volunteer training session for these new recruit volunteers.

The next board meeting date was set for April 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58pm.

Submitted by Board Chairperson Dr. Jim Paul