

PORT ST. LUCIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Minutes – Monday, February 3, 2025, at 3:00 PM
Port St. Lucie History Museum and Education Center

Meeting called to order by Patricia Christensen at 3:15 PM.

Board Members Present: Wade Willnow, Christine Williams, Marty Zientz, Donnita Graben, Dennis Grabhorn, Deanne Davis, Nate Spera, Matthew Billitti, Patricia Christensen and Jack Kelly arrived at 3:22.

Board Member(s) Absent: Maria Bordonaro and Stephanie Morgan.

Others in Attendance: Butch Post

Chair Comments: Patricia Christensen explained that there needed to be more order during the meetings. Asked for no side discussions, stick to the agenda, respect others who are speaking. Will follow Roberts Rules of Order.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda: Items 10d and E removed from Agenda.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Wade Willnow, seconded by Marty Zientz, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes for January 2025: Motion to approve January meeting minutes was made by Marty Zientz, seconded by Wade Willnow. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Matthew Billitti made a motion to file, seconded by Wade. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- a. Results of Survey for Board Meeting and Time – After discussion of survey, it was determined that the first Tuesday at noon would work for everyone. Patricia will do the final check with absent members. Motion made by Matthew Billitti, seconded by Christine Williams. Motion carried.

Wade brought up that members who aren't able to attend in person should be allowed to call in or zoom in. After further discussion, a motion was made by Wade Willnow, seconded by Christine Williams to allow Zoom, no phone call-ins, and the person must have camera on. Motion carried.

- b. Results of Survey for Workshop Date – Discussion of the best day. It should be when everyone can spend 3 to 4 hours uninterrupted. The consensus was Saturday. A survey will be sent out by Stephanie to see which Saturday in March works. We need every member present.
- c. Continued Discussion on Dip-Jar – Jack Kelly – Jack reported that this idea was too expensive and wouldn't work for us at this time. Matthew Billitti suggested a QR code to be used to direct people to donate through Venmo or Zelle. Venmo is the safest. A motion was made by Wade Willnow and seconded by Matthew Billitti to use a QR code and Venmo, motion carried.

New Business

- a. Update on Museum Management Committee – Chair reported the committee was looking for new options to secure the museum. Giving everyone the same code isn't working. The committee is looking at options of new lock with Wi-Fi capability or a lock box. Waiting for City to approve lock or lock box change.
In the meantime, the lock combinations will be changed monthly, and there will be a new code for Board and a separate code for Volunteers. Marty Zientz made a motion to change combination and see how that works for 60 days. Wade Willnow seconded; motion carried.
- b. Discussion on Fundraising – Nate Spera reported he is meeting with Car Club to help assist in a future car show. Boat Parade will also be researched.
- c. Discussion of Facility Lease – Discussion on the rental uses for the museum for reoccurring income. Security issues and lease documents were discussed. Patricia will get a copy of the rental agreement with the City. The Management Team will come up with Policies and Rental Agreement for the next meeting.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Christine reported the Finance Committee met. They went over the budget, P&L and discussed the use of QuickBooks and format. They made the following recommendations:

1. The Society will continue to use the current version of QuickBooks until the subscription expires.
2. Only one operating checking account.
3. The format for the Budget/P&L will continue in its current format, including the use of GL numbers.
4. Treasurer will provide a copy of the bank statements along with P&L each month.

A motion was made by Wade to approve the recommendations, seconded by Nate Spera. Motion carried.

Membership Committee - Marty Zientz reported dues invoices were sent out and member renewals are coming in. Marty needs assistance with the spreadsheets.

Brick Paver Fundraiser- Patricia reported that the brick space area was measured, will accommodate approximately 5200 bricks. First order submitted but Maria is working on a few issues with the order. We still need a landscaper to donate his labor to prepare the site for laying the bricks.

Events

- a. Society Gatherings – Plans for February Gathering, February 19th. Jack confirmed Sheriff DelToro as the speaker. A gold shovel will be donated for the raffle or auction. Need other raffle items. – Butch Post recommended that a sign-up sheet be available for people at the Gathering to sign up to help with the Museum.
- b. Report on Events
 - I. Deanne reported that the January 11th St. Lucie Historical Festival was well attended, Donnita & Deanne worked the booth. They handed out membership info, sold a book and made connections with the other museums to share ideas.
 - II. Other Outreach Events – Deanne, Dennis and Donnita will speak at the Botanical Gardens for the River Vista HOA on 2/4. Donnita and Deanne will host a museum tour for 10 to 20 members of the Newcomers Club on 2/13.

Donnita will be a judge at the School District History Day on 2/21.

Donnita, Dennis and Deanne will judge at the St. Lucie District Project Citizen Event on 2/28.

Donnita and Deanne will speak at the Botanical Gardens for Mothers/Daughters Tea on 5/5.

Patricia is hosting the Leadership Class from the Chamber on 2/13.

Board Member Comments – Jack Kelly suggested again that we have a manager for the museum. There was a lengthy discussion. Dennis said it would happen sometime, but the thought the museum was too new and working with the city in the early stages would be difficult. The consensus was to leave things as they are for now.

Dennis suggested the office door be locked unless those working in the office are present. He is concerned about information being accessible to everyone. Patricia will inquire with the city about a lock being installed. In the meantime, all volunteers will be asked to stay out of the office.

Historical Society Members Announcements – Butch Post raised concern about Insurance and liability insurance.

Butch also suggested we have a “Open House”. Patricia told her to proceed and asked her to chair the event. Butch asked for Deanne and Donnita to assist.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM

Respectfully submitted,