

Gardner Historical Museum, Inc.
Listed in the State and National Register of Historic Places

General Meeting Minutes for Members and Board

January 14, 2009 (Postponed from January 7, 2010)
204 W. Main Street, PO Box 442
Gardner, Kansas 66030

Welcome: Vice President Nancee R. called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm with 10 members in attendance.

Minutes: The December 3, 2009 Minutes were presented as posted on the Web Site. Motion was made to accept the minutes as posted, by Marcia G., seconded by Tressa S. and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Laura M. presented the financial report for December of the Museum accounts. She answered questions from board members. It was noted that reimbursement for the cost of exterior light fixtures and bulbs will need to be paid from the grant account. She also presented information and samples of plaques for Stake Your Claim on the Trail...The Next Step, the updating needed for the SYCT...TNS "deed" list to include the steps, possibly the chicken house & memorial gardens, as well as reducing the price of some items. A sample for the wording of the plaque needed for the Trails sign outside was also presented. Estimates for the plaques will be requested from United Office Products. Janie E. moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Marcia G. seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business: **Thank You Party for Volunteers:** Nancee presented the sign up sheet for food, set up, etc. for completion. We estimated we will have at least 25 in attendance. The cold & snow will probably have a negative effect on the event, but we agreed it was too late and unnecessary to cancel. There was also some discussion about a second party to be held in the summer, but no definitive plans were made.

Budget Committee Report Update: Claude S. indicated that the budget for the Museum is pretty basic and that we should continue to move forward, keeping an eye on expenditures and acting prudently when planning projects.

Mural Reference Book Update: Nancee is to pass the book to Mica M. for further review.

Bray Property Update: Nothing new to report. As far as anyone knows, an appraisal has not been completed.

Basement Wall Update: Laura returned a call, as requested from a letter received from a Zurich claims representative with the claim number, etc. and asking for further information. The contractor and the Museum both have Zurich as insurance carriers. The claims representative is to contact an engineer to visit & make an assessment of the situation for Zurich & the contractor. Nancee also offered some information as to why she feels the contractor is responsible for the shifts in the walls.

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Festival on the Trails, 2010: Nothing new to report at this time. Laura is still planning to work on researching the feasibility of using the Grange hall as the Heritage Dance Hall again.

Winterizing Update: Nancee & Laura informed the board that the main incoming water line to the downstairs sink & toilet, froze recently. They placed a space heater in the crawl space, with its plug feeding through the floor grate, so it will be easier to turn on, if it happens again. It was agreed that the many gaps in the crawl space walls creates the need to seal and insulate those walls to control the amount of cold air. It was noted that the gutter at the front porch is leaking, creating dangerous ice at the front steps. We still have no idea who plowed the parking lot after the first big snow storm. All signs point to a lot of snowfall this winter.

New Business: **2010 Dues Letter:** Laura presented a sample letter which updates the planned events and the Next Step portion of the Stake Your Claim on the Trail campaign. She also indicated how she was planning to update the “fee schedule” for the campaign, including reducing the prices listed for some items. After some discussion, it was decided that she should type up a revised list to present at the February meeting. Laura thanked a group of new volunteers who helped her with some rearranging, inviting all to look at the tool display now in the Trails Room and the tapestry that was hung in that room. She and Tressa presented a few unprofessional copies of Virginia Johnson’s first book that were made available to those present for a donation to the museum. There was also some discussion about professionally reprinting Virginia’s books sometime in the future.

Discussion Items: **Elections in March/Committee Changes:** It was noted that Mark T. has resigned from the Board, as well as any committees he was on. A sample ballot was shown, as if the elections were held that night. From it, we determined who needs to be contacted to confirm inclusion to the ballot. It was also noted that the committees and their members may also need to be revised.

Thank You Notes &/or Gifts for Special Occasions: This topic was brought up for discussion as a result of the realization that we have no definite policy of formally expressing our thanks to members who volunteer to help with special projects, exhibits and/or events. It was expressed that we established the annual Thank You Party specifically for those volunteers. There was not a clear consensus in favor of a formal thank you note being sent by the Secretary, but there was agreement that the person in charge of the specific project/exhibit/event, should feel free to use the Parry notecards, if desired, to send a personal note when that person feels it is appropriate. It was also agreed that gift cards, cash or other expenditures for this purpose would “open the floodgates” and should not be utilized. The possibility of hosting a Thank You Picnic in the summer might be a way to offer thanks to volunteers more often and to those who cannot get out as easily in the winter. This will be discussed further at a later date.

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Committee Reports: (In the list below, the Committee Chair is listed first, with the Committee Members listed in parenthesis.)

Archives – Nancee (Laura, Claude, Vi M., Mark T., Shirley, Rob J., Tressa S.)
Nancee announced that there will NOT be a meeting in January.

Advisory – Peggy C. (Vi, Mayrene N., Bettie T.)

Events – Casey (Laura, Nancee, Claude, Rob, Marcia G)

Laura called attention to the events listed on the Agenda. Linda R. told of her plans to set up the Grange exhibit in April and to present a “model” meeting outside in June. It was also noted that, since the Trails sign in our yard was never officially dedicated when installed originally, that this would be a good time to include that, with the attachment of a small plaque to the sign post, in June. Marcia G. will be working more intently on the May topic of Kansas & local women when she returns from vacation in March. It was noted that, due to the change in format of the Gardner Parks & Recreation brochure, we no longer have information in that publication.

Fund Raising/Budgeting – Shirley (Claude, Laura)

Grants Research/Application – Mark T. (Nancee, Sue)

Membership – Laura (Shirley)

When presented, it was agreed that there would be no changes to the suggested dues amounts for family or corporate/organization memberships.

Maintenance/Grounds/Housekeeping – Rob (Mark B., Connie W., Sharon K.)

Press/P.R. – Mica M. (none)

Mica consented to at least finish the term as chairman, due to Mark’s resignation.

School District Liaison – Claude (Mica)

Claude indicated that he is planning to make contact with the new Community Development Director recently hired by the school district. He plans to offer a free membership as an incentive to establish more rapport.

Volunteers – Nancee (none)

Nancee announced that we have been able to recruit a few new people as volunteers. Keep up the good work.

Miscellaneous “After-Thoughts”:

Meetings: Laura asked Nancee to emphasize in her announcements about our meetings each month, that they are open to ALL members, not just the Board. She thinks that members may feel they are not welcome, but hopes that if we get more in attendance, we will have a larger base to draw from for volunteers.

City Tree Trimming: Laura gave Rob J. the information received regarding the need for at least one tree in our front yard to be trimmed. Due to concerns of several members that they will trim it in a hap-hazard manner, Rob is to call to get more details.

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Souvenirs: Laura informed the group that our accountant has confirmed that the manner in which we provide incentives to members through gifts/services from local merchants is acceptable & he actually encouraged us to continue to increase the number of membership sponsors. Offering Museum souvenirs as incentives is also acceptable. As a side note, Mica also recommended that we consider promoting the Museum to local churches.

Road Signs: Laura shared the information sent from the City regarding the cost for the signs we would like to erect. Nancee is to call the City to check again on funding for signage that was promised at the time of the Museum opening.

For Your Information:

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS: Refreshments were served (but mainly to the docents). *Thanks to Connie W and Sharon K for decorating for Christmas and to Judy A and Terrace Catering for the goodies. (We had 15 visitors.)*

KANSAS MONTH: Kansas exhibit, decorations & research material. (Due to the bad weather this month, this exhibit will be continued through February & March.)

GHOST TOWNS & RURAL SCHOOLS OF JOHNSON COUNTY: Featuring Prairie Center & Four Corners (Mount Pleasant). This exhibit will be during February & March. We can always use more info, if you can help. Contact Laura, Claude or Tressa.

Next General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2010, 6:00pm, at Museum**

Motion to Adjourn: Janie E. made a motion to adjourn and Mica seconded the motion. Adjourned at approximately 7:39 pm.

**** NOTE on 2/7/10: As you were made aware by e-mail, the above date was changed to February 11.**