

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

**General Meeting Minutes for Members and Board**

October 1, 2009  
204 W. Main Street, PO Box 442  
Gardner, Kansas 66030

**Welcome:** President Shirley B-V. called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with 12 members and one guest in attendance. Shirley also welcomed Mark T. back after being ill.

**Minutes:** The September 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 September of the Museum accounts. There were no bills presented. Mark B. moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Claude S. seconded, and the motion carried. The Treasurer's Financial Report will be filed with the minutes at the Museum.

**Old Business:**       **Zurich Insurance Renewal:** Shirley introduced Mark Halpin, our insurance agent, from MJH Insurance. He confirmed the information provided at the September meeting, adding that a \$250 deductible would apply for any additional rider/schedule we might want to add for the WPA Doll collection or the Timeline Mural. He was then available for questions from the Board. The members of the Board agreed that we should increase the amount of personal property coverage, increase the deductible and purchase the additional rider/schedule for the WPA Dolls. We will need to provide Mark with copies of the photos of dolls & descriptions, along with the estimated value. The additional cost can then be submitted to the School Board for reimbursement consideration, as well as dimensions of the dolls for possible approval of a student project to build a special cabinet that would be more secure and more environmentally sound. It was also agreed to apply for special coverage for the Mural if/when it ever leaves the Museum.

**Budget Committee Report:** Claude & Laura explained how the basic budget information was determined, using figures from 2008 & 2009-to-date. The only thing found to be missing were the monthly mortgage interest payments. Shirley indicated the committee will plan to have more information regarding projections for 2010 at the November meeting.

**Mural Reference Book Update:** Shirley indicated that Karen A. had dropped off a copy of her proposed Mural Reference Book. Unfortunately, Shirley was out of town and did not get to talk with Karen. Shirley left a voice mail for Karen to get back with her to obtain more information.

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**Photo from Jamie L.:** Due to the lack of a quality photo of the Mayor's painting, plus the information that the painting is not completely finished, the proposed project for Christmas cards is not going to happen this year. It was suggested we might use the project for a fundraiser at the Festival in June, 2010. We also decided to prepare and promote the Parry Notecards for Christmas cards or gifts. If the Stake Your Claim on the Trail campaign can be revised in time, the new offerings could also be promoted as Christmas gifts. Mica is to work on planning for the fundraisers and souvenir sales.

**City of Gardner Budget Update:** Shirley and Laura informed the Board that, thankfully, the funding from the City will stay the same as last year.

**Porch Repair Update:** Mark B. reported that he has not gotten a bid from Ed M yet. Laura reported that Rob has the estimate from George M, but that Dan M and Jeremy were too busy to bid. Nancee reported that Kevin C will prepare an estimate soon, but she has had no response from Tom. By consensus, it was agreed that the Museum Officers will review the estimates for the porch repairs, as well as the door jambs that were discussed in September, and determine how to proceed and with whom.

**Bray Property Update:** Shirley does not have any further information from the family yet. She did get some comparable sale information from Betty C that she presented. The tax valuation is much lower than the comparables. She confirmed that the family will give the Museum first choice to purchase the property before it is put on the open market. Shirley discussed that we will need one or several benefactors and/or a contract for deed in order for the Museum to be able to afford it. Even if we can purchase the property, there is still the question of taxes, utilities and upkeep to have to budget for.

**Front Yard:** Shirley voiced concerns about the damage to the front yard from the water main replacement, as well as, the manhole replacements. We are assuming the City will be using sod when the work is done & this is of concern as to whether it will survive the winter. There is also damage to the front sidewalk & Shirley is to investigate whether we should consider replacing the rest of the front walk to make it all match. Laura also expressed concern about the Museum's foundation/basement wall, as the rocks seem to have shifted a lot more since they have been working with heavy equipment in the yard. She, and others, agreed that they can feel the house shake when the heavy equipment is moving in front.

**New Business:** **Reverse Mortgage Website:** Laura & Shirley informed the Board of a website that is using the Museum's name, images and information to promote reverse mortgages, calling themselves the "Gardner Historical Museum of Reverse Mortgages". The website link was sent to our attorney for advice. After he researched the owner of the site, he then sent a cease & desist letter to that person, with a deadline of October 15, 2009.

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**Festival on the Trails, 2010:** Shirley confirmed that the Festival will be one day only, Saturday, June 12, 2010. There will be booths, artists, a Senior Citizens gathering, our Museum booth and a concert that night. Laura requested that the Museum & Docey Dandies be allowed to host the same type of event as last year in the Grange Hall. There was a brief discussion as to whether we would do downtown tours again, and if so, would the Cemetery Walk portrayers be willing to participate? Shirley will report to the committee on behalf of the Museum.

**Basement:** Shirley asked the Board members to go to the basement immediately following the meeting to examine the rock walls/foundation. It appears to have shifted considerably on the west end of the south wall, creating a large bulge in the lower half. She is concerned that the shifting has been a result of the heavy equipment used to replace the water line on the property. Several members have reported that the house shakes/vibrates when the heavy equipment is being used.

**Winterizing:** Shirley asked if there were any winterizing needs that we need to take care of. It was suggested that we cover the screened porch with heavy plastic to cut down on drafts, as well as snow blowing in.

**Chicken House Roof:** Shirley also recommended that the roof of the chicken house be painted for better protection from deterioration and to improve the looks of the building.

**Discussion Items: Senior Quest 2009:** Laura reported on this opportunity being offered, to set up a free booth/table where senior citizens would be attending the event. She indicated there was still room, and she would represent the Museum if she could get at least one volunteer to assist. There were no volunteers at this time. Mayrene N. recommended the worthiness of the event, if we could attend.

**Museum Web Site/Domain Registration:** Nancee informed the board that it is time to renew this registration and she is to check on the cost. After a short discussion, it was agreed that she should renew, giving her a cost limitation of \$150.

**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 indicated that all tie-breakers reported in September were taken care of. There will not be a meeting in October.

**Advisory** – Peggy C. (Vi, Mayrene N., Bettie T.)  
Shirley has talked to the members of this committee and will continue to discuss the needs of the Museum.

**Events** – Casey (Laura, Nancee, Claude, Rob, Marcia G)  
Information regarding the Military Tribute and Exhibit were outlined on the second page of the Agenda, including the special event of a performance of 40's music by the Olathe Civic Jazz Band on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Shirley indicated there will be a county program to recognize local Veteran's on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, in Veteran's Park. Gerald

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H, who is working on the event, is to contact Laura to get any information we have about the Park and become familiar with the Military Exhibit. It was proposed that we host a reception for the Veterans after the 11:00 ceremony. That proposal will be discussed more and finalized at the November meeting.

Nancee reported that the Cemetery Walk was a success again this year, although there was not a significant increase in attendance. It was noted that many of the attendees have been coming every year. She reiterated that the committee is still planning to print a booklet of the scripts of those portrayed over the last 3 years at a later date. They are planning to research the feasibility of portraying residents of St. Columbia Catholic Cemetery in 2010. Parking would be the largest issue to overcome.

**Fund Raising/Budgeting** – Shirley (Claude, Laura)

**Grants Research/Application** – Mark T. (Nancee)

Nancee has reviewed the Kansas Heritage Trust Fund grant application, but is not sure what should be requested for funding. The application is due November 2<sup>nd</sup> and requires matching funds of 20% of the project cost. She & Shirley are to review further and report back at the November meeting.

**Membership** – Laura (Shirley)

Laura reported that reminder letters (225) were sent by the end of September.

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

It was noted where light bulbs were needed inside & out, and confirmed that the committee would work to schedule painting the roof of the chicken house, as suggested above.

**Press/P.R.** – Mark T. (Mica M.)

Concern was expressed regarding the continuing lack of local citizens' awareness of the existence of the Museum, let alone the events we sponsor & present. Shirley is to work with Mica M. in planning the citizen recognition portion of 2010's Festival. Also, a new idea for "mug shots" for the Festival was presented. Mica brought up whether we should consider the possibility of charging for tours. This led to discussion of the pros & cons of guided versus self-guided tours.

**School District Liaison** – Claude (Mica)

**Volunteers** – Nancee (none)

### **For Your Information:**

**MILITARY TRIBUTE AND EXHIBIT: Featuring Memorabilia from the Olathe Naval Air Station.....October and November**

**Special Event: Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:30**

**Enjoy music & dancing, reminiscent of USO Shows of WWII.**

**Outside, at the Museum. Music by the Olathe Civic Jazz Band.**

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If you or someone you know would be willing to loan personal military items for this exhibit, please contact Laura. If you are interested in making follow up calls regarding ideas for special events or speakers during this exhibit, please contact Laura as well.

***Next General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 6:00pm, at Museum***

**Motion to Adjourn:** Claude made a motion to adjourn and Mayrene seconded the motion.  
Adjourned at approximately 7:35 pm.