

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

General Meeting Minutes for Members and Board

October 2, 2008
204 W. Main Street, PO Box 442
Gardner, Kansas 66030

Welcome: President Shirley B-V. called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. 12 members in attendance.

Minutes: The September 4, 2008 Minutes were approved as posted on the Web Site by a motion made by Nancee R., a second by Vi M., and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Rob J. reported the bank balances of the Museum accounts. The Treasurer's Report will be filed with the minutes at the Museum.

Old Business: **Mural/Book Update:** Shirley reported that the sample book shown by Karen at an earlier meeting was made by the UPS Store and that 3 officers had called to alert the Manager not to charge any costs for printing the book to the Museum. The UPS store provided an estimate, but nothing more has been reported from Karen, with no CD or text being turned in yet. It was concluded that book could be published at a later date, possibly with grant funds, or even not at all, if the Museum cannot afford the costs.

Cemetery Walk, 2008 Report: Nancee R. was very pleased with the event. She passed a report, which is being filed with the minutes. She commended the volunteers for doing a wonderful job. All went smoothly. There was a small problem regarding the use of Meadowbrook's parking lot due to lack of communication on their part. The flyers & tickets were donated. The number of attendees grew by about 25-30 people over 2007. Shirley commented that the letter to the editor in the Gardner News was nice, too. Janie E. suggested a dress rehearsal for next year, so all know what is going on with each other. Laura M. suggested a golf cart for those with walking impairments. Shirley also indicated it was a "project well done", but suggested that the hours of the Museum & a History of Gardner synopsis be given by the Narrator and that chairs for the re-enactors was okay, but they needed to be better concealed. Casey O. thought most of the actors will come back next year & that the criss-cross route for the tours worked well. Rob J. suggested each actor research who they are portraying. Nancee hopes Rob & other actor/members will be on the committee next year. She also opened discussion on how the funds raised should be used. She suggested purchasing newspaper CD's from the State to fill in dates & years that we are missing. Nancee is to report back to the Board exactly what we are missing. The CD's are about \$150 each. Casey suggested we purchase one first to examine, then decide if we want more at a later date. Nancee made the motion to purchase one CD, Shirley seconded & motion carried.

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Grants, 2008 Update: Laura reported that we had been awarded the full amount requested of the Heritage Trust Fund for the update the Museum's security system. The full amount will be paid in a lump sum up front, because the amount requested is under \$5,000.00. We should receive the contracts in 4-6 weeks. Laura also suggested we should think about fire protection, particularly if it is not covered extensively in the security proposal. Mark B. is to check to see what is recommended by the Sheriff's Dept. and will report back. Shirley asked for ideas for a children related grant proposal. Casey outlined her idea for push-button type learning tools to be installed in the chicken house with information on a variety of possible themes, such as farming in the early days, Gardner history, etc. Nancee also commented that they be inter-active, if possible. Nancee also had an idea for a traveling trunk to take to schools or organizations. The trunk would hold costumes and/or props to tell a story or allow the children to put on a play. She brought a sample play that will be given to Bettie Turner to use as a guide to possibly write a simple script. Shirley is to obtain more information on the requirements for the \$2,000.00 grants. Nancee, Casey and Janie E. were asked to work on the grant proposal.

New Goals: Nancee is to compile a list of all the goals submitted for review at the next meeting.

Web Hosting: Brad R. is to meet with Shane B. next week. The name of the web company is Front Runner.

Festival Update: Laura M. relayed the information discussed at the Festival follow up meeting as to feedback from members of the committee and what we might expect next year. She also gave a detailed report of the items sold at the booth in the Grange Hall on Saturday, the response to the Treasure Hunt that day & an overall evaluation of the Museum's part in the Festival. She thanked Claude S. for making 4 sandwich boards to attach 2X4 foot posters to, directing visitors to the Grange Hall. They were made at a reduced rate and we will hopefully be able to use them again next year, if we do the same thing again. The tickets & handouts for the walking tours were donated. The cost of the Grange Hall was covered by the money collected from the sale of last year's 150 apparel that was donated to the Museum by the Chamber of Commerce.

Yard Sign/Easement Update: Laura reported that the requested documents granting the permanent and temporary easements for the proposed replacement water lines. Claude indicated that the north edge of the easement is about 1 foot from the flag pole. Nancee reported that the light on the flag pole is not working. Rob suggested we may need to call in an electrician to repair the fixture properly. Shirley is to present our plan to the City of Gardner as soon as possible and meet with them to discuss placement.

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New Business: **New Donations: Archives:** Nancee announced a committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 10th at 5:00 pm to review the items presented for donation by the Ted Parry family. Tressa S. suggested a Parry exhibit at a future date. Mark B. was acknowledged for his donation of a new de-humidifier for the basement as the old one had quit working.

New Donations: Monetary: Laura's report will be filed with the minutes of the meeting.

Volunteer Thank You Party: Nancee and Laura announced an expanded party is planned for Saturday, January 17th, 4-7:00 pm. This party will recognize those who have been volunteers throughout 2008. Members were asked to consider where we might be able to hold the party at little or no cost to the Museum, what type of refreshments to provide and to suggest names for invitations to be sure we don't miss anyone.

Discussion Items: **Messer File Cabinet:** Laura pointed out that an additional \$200 had been received for the Betty Messer Memorial and reminded the Board that the family wanted the funds used to purchase a fire-safe filing cabinet to house Betty's research materials in particular. After some discussion, due to concerns about the current floor being able to support such a heavy cabinet and a lack of floor space, at Claude's suggestion, it was decided to store those materials, as well as other important documents, in an unused vault/cabinet at Metcalf Bank until we are able to reach one of our proposed long range goals of building a separate office & research structure. Claude also suggested we rent a safety deposit box.

Committee Reports: **Press/PR:** Some story ideas were suggested to Mark T. and he asked us to let him know of other ideas, too.

Advisory: This committee is to consider revisions to the structure of the Museum Board.

Fund Raising: After brief discussion, it was agreed to "stay the course" with the Stake Your Claim campaign until after the first of the year. Laura suggested the committee consider ways to accommodate those wishing to make small legacy donations.

Volunteers: Nancee reminded everyone that we always need more docents.

School Liaison: Claude is to renew his contacts now that school is back in session.

Events: Military Tribute & Exhibit through November. Any help is appreciated by Laura, who will be working on the display Friday, Saturday & Sunday, if necessary.

For Your Information:

Announcements: **Next General Meeting is November 6, 2008 6:00 pm, at the Museum**

Motion to Adjourn: Shirley made a motion to adjourn and Laura seconded the motion. Adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm.