

Geneva History Museum (GHM) Annual Meeting

December 16, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Eleanor Hamilton. Eleanor thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them to the annual meeting.

Approval of Minutes of December 3, 2018*

Ellen Bassett moved and Tracy O'Connell seconded approval of December 3, 2018, Annual Membership Meeting minutes. Unanimously approved by members.

Treasurer's Report/Audit

Glorianne Campbell, Treasurer, reported a successful year for the Museum; however, the Museum continues to have financial challenges. Monthly expenses are approximately 20K. Monthly revenue is irregular as we have "peaks and valleys" that make budgeting for monthly expenses difficult. Glorianne appealed to members to donate on a monthly basis to facilitate planning for the fiscal year. She also reminded members that there are income tax advantages to their donations. Glorianne encouraged members to donate to nonrestrictive funds to provide more flexibility in how they can be used. Grants received are designated to specific projects. The audit was received today so is not available for review tonight but will be posted to the website.

President's Report

- Draft of ByLaws Changes*: Eleanor reported that the ByLaws are reviewed on a regular basis and were revised to align with current Museum functioning. Glorianne Campbell moved and Cookie Olson seconded the approval of the ByLaws changes. The members unanimously approved.
- Recognition of Board Members: Eleanor reported that the Board has four committees:
 - (1) Executive Board – members include Eleanor, Mike Hellman, Anne Cesarone, Glorianne Campbell, JoAnn Cregier; (2) Development – Anne Cesarone and Kelly Vass are co-chairs replacing Kathy Rentas and JoAnn Cregier as 2019 co-chairs. Other members are Glorianne Campbell, JoAnn Cregier, Pat Engel, Eleanor Hamilton, Michael Hellman, Suzy Shogren. 2019 members, Jane Martin, Jack Gorecki, Kathy Rentas, resigned from the Board; (3) Collections – Dan Maier chairs this committee. Joyce Elliott, 2019 chair, resigned from the Board but will continue volunteering to work with Collections; (4) Buildings and Grounds – Tracy O'Connell chairs this committee. 2019 member, Gary Hedge, served nine years on the Board and

due to term limits, will no longer be on the Board but will continue to work with Tracy as a volunteer.

Eleanor then recognized three (3) groups: Board members leaving the Board (Joyce Elliott, Pat Engel, Jack Gorecki, Gary Hedge, Jane Martin, Kathy Rentas), Board members beginning 2nd of three year term (Anne Cesarone, JoAnn Cregier) and Board members beginning their first term (Susy Shogren, Kelly Vass).

- Recognition of GHM Members: Eleanor also recognized GHM members who, through their participation and financial support, enable the Museum to be a reality.
- Recognition of GHM Employees: Eleanor complimented the employees on their dedication, welcoming presence and teaming spirit and presented them with a gift in appreciation. Employees acknowledged were: Terry Emma, Executive Director, Markie Striegel, Curator of Collections & Exhibitions, Heidi Howlett, Educator, Gayle Meers, Archivist, Connie Porter, Administrative Assistant and Vanessa Quillinan, Financial Assistant.

Executive Director's Year in Review

Terry Emma, Executive Director, thanked the members for attending the meeting and opened with Marcus Garvey quote "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots."

Terry reviewed and updated members on events, programs, services, grants and accomplishments in 2019. These include:

- A fund raiser in January at the Fox River Distilling Company provided by Michael Olesen who purchased the item at the 2018 BBQ. All proceeds were given to the Museum.
- Exhibit of select works by Joel Sheesley, A Fox River Testimony.
- Monthly publications, Kane County Chronicle – Picturing the Past, Kane County Connects e-letter, and Geneva Chamber of Commerce, are part of the Museum's communication outreach with the community.
- Seven Brown Bag Programs: St. Mark's Mural Mystery, The Art of Mapmaking, Bring Your Bling, A Century of Service, Peck Farm Part - A Family Legacy, Radical Decorative – Geneva's Howell Company, and History of the Fabyan Forest Preserve.
- Manuel Bromberg's mural in the Geneva Post Office celebration on this 102nd birthday. Manuel was a World War II artist. Terry gave Manuel a binder with well wishes from the community on his birthday. Manuel was touched by the recognition as the mural had received no fanfare when installed. Manuel sent handwritten thank you notes to all those who wished him well.
- Geneva On Wheels and Bike Tours continue to be well received and are conducted by Terry and Heidi Howlett. Geneva On Wheels is sponsored by thirteen Geneva businesses:

Chianti Ristorante, Cocoon, Crystal Life Technology Inc., Flair on Third, Fox River Distilling Co., Mill Race Cyclery, Little Red Barn Door, The Little Traveler, Merle Norman Cosmetics, The Olive Mill, State Street Jewelers, Stockholm's Brew Pub, West Valley Graphics and Print, Inc. The businesses pay \$150 membership fee and can add to the "goody bag" items for trolley riders.

- Trolley Tours during Swedish Days conducted with each year a new route design. Plans for 2020 may include the eastside Geneva subdivision, Ridgewood, that experienced a tornado in 1967.
- Group and School programs conducted throughout the year.
- May Membership Month featuring the Ashland Center, previously the National grocery store as well as other businesses through the years.
- Geneva Golf Club Donor Party to acknowledge donors who have made significant contributions to the Museum. Esther Bullock, long-time Geneva resident, addressed those attending and gave testimony as to why her family has been a major donor.
- Kane County Juried Art Exhibit had sixty (60) submissions and thirty-two (32) were selected. This exhibit was to enhance a broader outreach.
- The Let's Play Railway, a special children's exhibition, allowed children a "hands on" activity. The Fabyan Foundation grant of 13K financed this exhibition.
- Interviews of Geneva residents to preserve their "Geneva" story. Terry requested of members to let her know if they would like to be interviewed.
- BBQ Annual Fundraiser was very successful and proceeds surpassed that of previous years. The BBQ added some fun features, A Wine Pull and Jewelry Heist.
- Grant Support for 2019 included the Fabyan Foundation 13K that financed the Let's Play Railway; Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley 11K that financed key pad access; Kane County Riverboat 25K enabling the Museum to purchase/upgrade computers; Institute of Museum and Library Services 167K enabling the redesign of the Collections area with the goal of adding 40% more storage with January 2021 set as timeline for installation.
- Three Map Case Drawers donated by Kane County Department of Transportation.
- Christmas Walk with Santa landing on Museum roof and Giving Trees, benefiting local charities.
- Terry concluded by thanking members again for their support and offering 20% discount on Gift Shop items purchased tonight. Terry introduced Dan Maier to share information about Collections.
 - IMLS Grant (Dan Maier/Joyce Elliott speak and share objects from the Collection)
 - Dan, Chair of the Collections Committee, gave an impassioned presentation of our Collections items. Dan first reviewed the process/procedure in place in preparation for the redesign of the shelving area,

made possible through the IMLS grant. This is painstakingly detailed work as each item is to be inventoried and assigned a location.

- As a result of this work, Dan showed several items of significant historical value including a Jarvis Bible dated in the 1700's, first edition Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe, photos of three US Presidents (Reagan, T. Roosevelt, Kennedy), Louis Armstrong photo (1950), Albert Einstein signature from 1933 (may have been during a visit to Riverbank Laboratories as George Fabyan's signature was on the same page), photos from Civil War era, and excerpts from letters.
- Dan's presentation was well received by members and demonstrated how their financial and volunteering makes the preservation of these items possible.
- Dan ended by thanking members for their contributions to maintain the Collections items.

Game (while Board of Directors exits to vote on officers)

For some levity a fun game "Dead or Alive" was played. This is a game where the name of a celebrity is said and the participants cross their arms if they believe that person is dead and they hold their arms up if alive. Those who guessed wrong sit down. The last one standing won a \$15 gift card to the Geneva History Museum.

President introduces new officers*

Eleanor reported the results of the Board of Director's meeting, held during a brief recess of the annual meeting. Cookie Olson moved and John Bassett seconded the approval of the Board as presented. Members unanimously approved the slate of officers:

- Eleanor Hamilton, President
- Mike Hellman, 1st Vice President
- Anne Cesarone, 2nd Vice President
- Glorianne Campbell, Treasurer
- JoAnn Cregier, Secretary

Adjournment*

There being no other items of business, Gary Hedge moved and Ellen Bassett seconded adjournment. Approved by membership at 7:48 pm.

Submitted for approval,

JoAnn Cregier, Secretary
December 17, 2019

*Requires Vote