



301 South Leroy Street ♦ Fenton, Michigan 48430-2196 ♦ (810) 629-2261 ♦ FAX (810) 629-2004

MUSEUM BOARD MINUTES

January 19, 2023 – 6:30pm
City Hall Conference Room

Chairperson Vizard called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

ROLL CALL

Present: Tippet, Vizard, Seibert, Wheeler, S. Sage

Absent: D. Seger, M. Adair

Others Present: Jason Payne, Building/Zoning Administrator
Connie Foley, Historical Society

MINUTES

Motion by Tippet, Supported by Wheeler, to approve the minutes from November 15, 2022, meeting. Motion Carried

BUSINESS

• Update on Exterior Upgrades, Structural Repairs

Jason Payne went over the structural assessment letter received from Cheryl Early of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates. He noted that the important issues everyone was wanting, she did not completely answer. Payne emailed Ms. Early regarding the minimizing the weight of the storage on the second floor, along with temporarily shoring and bracing the porch during the rehab effort. There were a lot of questions that were evasive and unanswered; still leaving the question should the museum be reopened.

Member Sage added he thinks one of the main reasons this was requested was Mr. Markland, City Manager, feels this will help with getting grant money towards the repairs. Ms. Early has connections in the grant process and this report may help with the process. Sage feels she should have just given us a report stating whether it can be accessed and reopened. Sage further added that she did do a thorough report but Sage feels you could probably find a lot of these issues in one's own home. Not that it is legitimate to be concerned about.

Payne added that Early did state that she feels it was caused by high winds or possibly the major tornado Fenton had years ago. The beams are slowly rotting and compressing at different rates so the building is slowly sagging and drooping.

Sage would like to eliminate and remove the weight in the upstairs that is stored over the porch and not use the front porch. If we do this, he doesn't see why the museum can't be accessed by board members.

Members concurred that they should push for some real answers regarding the safety of opening the museum to members, blocking off the porch and using the side entrance.

It was discussed that with the added repairs, this could cost over \$200,000, so any possible grants would be beneficial, but now we are looking at a 2-3 year process for completion of all repairs. Members also agreed to wait to hear back from Ms. Early regarding reopening the museum for board members only for short periods of time even if it means moving up the meeting date to February.

There was further discussion on finding a place to store the items once the renovations begin and going through and keeping only items that are only historic. Finding a climate controlled storage might be what is needed.

• **Operating Museum and Sponsoring Events with Partners**

Chairperson Vizard asked for some ideas to keep the museum on peoples minds while they can't go into it. Wheeler thought Vizard was doing a great job with the Face Book page keeping people updated with information. Seibert asked Vizard his thoughts of when he is spot lighting local business that are in the historical business, to tag them in the post and they could share the post. This would possibly reach more followers on Face Book. They are also working on the website that should be done soon as well. Seibert added that she has come up with a way to allow people to sign up for memberships on line through the new website. Sage suggested to look into getting a booth at the Fenton Expo which is the first weekend in March. Vizard stated he would look into this and follow-up with everyone and possibly having a joint both with the Historical Society.

CALL TO AUDIENCE - No one this evening.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Payne stated at the last Council meeting, members talked about changing the meeting times of some of the Boards. Sage further added that the reason for this discussion on changing the meeting times is to bring the times closer to the end of the business day. Payne further added he would like to have this board begin at 5:30 pm and continue to meet in the city hall conference center. The following motion was then made:

MOTION by Sage, SUPPORTED by Wheeler, to change the standard meeting time of the Museum Board to 5:30 pm and have it held at the City Hall Conference Room.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion regarding the possibility of moving the March 16th meeting date up, to discuss opening the museum to the public once we get a definite answer from Ms. Early of WJE.

MEMBER ITEMS

Bev Tippett announced there will be an Irish Ceilidh event at the Community Center with a band from Detroit with beer and wine on March 10th.

Sage asked if Payne had an update on the keys to the Museum. Payne stated he has not received all of them back. It was noted that there are probably 4 or 5 keys still out there from past members. Payne added that he would like an accurate list which will be created once the locks are changed. The goal is to have a list of names of members who have the keys.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Davis

Recording Secretary