

## Oakland County Historical Commission Minutes

7:00 pm, October 09, 2023

BOC Conference Room

I. **Roll call:** Dave Walls, Dave Decker, George Milne, Carol Egbo, Kathy Mutch, Rosie Richardson; absent: Stephanie Arwady, Jerry Murphy. Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm by Chair, Dave Decker

II. **Additions/changes** to this agenda: NONE

III. **Approval of Minutes** from September 11, 2023 – Motion by Richardson , Second by Milne - approved

IV. **OCHC Commissioners up for reappointment** in December: Egbo, Mutch – If they intend to reapply they need to access the form here: <https://forms.oakgov.com/79>

### V. Old Business

#### a. Action Items

##### 1. Poster Project Discussion:

- Discussion items included whether or not to re-do the first two posters, whether or not to conduct a survey of librarians, etc. who have received the posters and how to update the list of where the posters are located and the contacts for those places.
- Dave Decker has extracted the graphics and text from the Great Migration poster. The problem is that many images have to be replaced due to lack of sourcing and low resolution. Decker has begun this process.
- A motion was made by Richardson and seconded by Milne to no longer work on revising the first two posters but move ahead on the Great Migration poster. Motion adopted.
- A decision was made regarding the importance of vetting poster drafts using content and cultural specialists beyond those who are members of the OCHC.
- A short discussion of additional poster locations was held but a decision tabled. In addition, further discussion needs to be held regarding a survey.

##### 2. Time Capsule Pricing/Update (Rosie)

- Eight school districts have agreed to be part of the time capsule project.
- Time capsules will be opened in 25 years.
- Grades 3 to 7 will be involved as well as the inclusion of high school essays.

b. **OCHC Budget:** Decker has located the original retractable OCHC banners so the purchase of new banners was dropped from the 2023 budget. However, the original banners will likely need repair. The cost of scanning of the 1857 map was also dropped from the 2023 budget because the Bentley Historical Museum did the scan at no cost. Re-printing of the first two posters was also dropped since a decision was made not to revise the posters. The 2024 budget is \$9865.00 of which \$5000 has been dedicated to the poster project.

c. **Certificate of thanks** to Jim Craft: Egbo will send Decker a template for the OCHC certificate and Decker will get it printed.

d. **Internship:** Milne reported that he is assisting Oakland University in developing new criteria for internships. This is likely to make it easier to place interns with history-focused institutions. The first placements will be available in September of 2024. There was a brief discussion regarding possible places for interns including the OCHC.

### VI. Committee Reports

a. **Website** - no report

**b. At-Risk Properties**

1. Rochester High School- no report
2. Payne-Waugh/Bloomfield Cemetery – Egbo will contact the Bloomfield Township clerk who originally contacted her regarding the cemetery.
3. Roosevelt Elementary School – Decker reported on the status of the school including his attendance at the recent West Bloomfield School Board meeting. He will keep the OCHC updated on this issue.

c. **1857 Map digitization** – As previously reported in the budget section of the notes, there was no cost for the scanning.

d. **Local history** as a subset of American History – see poster project above

1. African American History – The Underground Railroad project is continuing and further information will be available at the November 2023 meeting.
2. Essay Contest – see discussion of time capsule

e. **Time Capsule** – see Action items

f. **Historic House Preservation Guide** - tabled

g. **History Coalition**: The next HC Meeting will be Oct. 26, 2023 at the Rochester Hills Museum – Election of a new chair(s) will occur at the meeting.

h. **Preservation** – nothing new

**VII. New Business**

- a. Discussion on HB 4177, DHS/Charles Wright Millage: Decker reported that legislation is close to moving to the floor with substitute language including the stipulation that 20% of the millage funding go to Oakland County history-focused institutions
- b. Discussion on N. Arbit proposed HC legislation: Decker reported that the Michigan Township Association has come out against the legislation on the basis of it being unconstitutional in the view of the Association.
- c. Discussion on annual report to BOC – A brief discussion on this topic included the importance of keeping the BOC informed of OCHC activities as well as those of other history-focused groups and the need to address the entire BOC not just the Governance Committee.
- d. December Commission Meeting – A motion was made by Mutch and seconded by Milne to have the December OCHC meeting at the Oakland History Center and include a potluck dinner.
- e. Oakland County Cemetery Coalition – Egbo reported that the Coalition will meet November 28 at Waterford Oaks County Park. Milne is working on an interactive map using existing cemetery data and hoping to have it available for the November meeting.

**VIII. Revisiting Old Topics**

- a. **Archives** – It was decided that the OCHC needs more information regarding what records are currently in the archives and what finding aids exist for those records

b. **1820 Proclamation** – Discussion included the question of the original size of the Proclamation and whether or not Bruce Hawkins might be able to answer that question. There was general consensus that the OCHC should frame a copy of the Proclamation to be posted in a significant county building. Egbo and Decker strongly advocated for the framing of just the Proclamation itself and not the inclusion of an image of Lewis Cass.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM following a motion by Richardson and a second by Milne.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Bacak-Egbo, acting secretary