

Oakland County Historical Commission Minutes

7:00 pm, July 10, 2023

BOC Conference Room

- I. Roll call – Dave Walls, Jim Craft, Dave Decker, Kathy Mutch, Stephanie Arwady, Rosie Richardson, Jerry Murphy; absent: George Milne, Carol Egbo. Meeting called to order at 7:04pm.
- II. Approve Minutes from June 12, 2023 – motion made to approve Dave Decker, second by Rosie, with one change – Pontiac senior centers are already on the poster distribution list; received first poster but not second. Minutes approved with this change.
- III. Additions to the agenda – discussion of poster project
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Action Items
 1. Dave will reach out to Royal Oak Historical Society re: date for next Coalition meeting – Done – Friday July 14 at 11:00am
 2. Dave will look into benefits of upgrading to a full membership with OCHR and will follow up with JoAnne Stringfellow; Jim talked to JoAnn and this is all set
 3. Rosie will get a cost on time capsule; - Below
 4. Steph will email Coalition and ask them for their events for the calendar; -Below
 5. Everyone – agenda idea for Coalition, and ideas for website content including pics of local history posters in their location - Below
 - b. OCHC budget
 1. Posters – motion made to continue poster project by Rosie, seconded by Dave D. Discussion:
 1. Reception seems to be positive at installation sites (50 libraries, historical societies/museums, senior centers) and visitors are stopping to read them.
 2. Poster budget is separate from the rest of OCHC budget.
 3. Add Oakland History Center to the poster distribution list. Other potential sites to add: city halls and additional senior centers/residential communities like Fox Run, Waterford, Blossom Ridge (Adams & Dutton), Independence Twp. senior center with military museum, and Clarkston, too.
Motion passed unanimously to continue poster project. Jerry moves to print 8 more posters and purchase another pack of 8 frames; Rosie seconds; motion passed unanimously.
 2. Other – Budget proposal for next fiscal year is due soon. Discussion of line items:
 1. If approved, the budget for 2024 will cover posters starting with the fourth one that comes out in December 2023.
 - a. For next fiscal year, we plan to up the total of posters printed, and request **\$5000** for 60 posters.
 2. Other items to budget for: publish historic preservation research/resource guide based on Carol and Ron's historic house talks.
 - a. Kathy to find links to historic preservation resources from MHPN, etc. that we can also share on our website, as well as links to online communities for people interested in Sears catalog homes.
 - b. Printed booklet version of historic house research guide can be given to local historical societies, Oakland History Center, libraries for their local history/reference section, taken to relevant talks given by Carol, other OCHC members, local historians like Ron Campbell, Andrew Mutch, etc. and handed out at conferences, other places that OCHC has a table/outreach. Print 500 copies – estimate \$2/copy for **\$1000** total.
 3. Conferences – for OCHC members to attend them and to host them.
 - a. Attend – request **\$1000**
 - i. HSM's Local History Conference – 2024 pricing won't be finalized until this fall, but Kathy knows it's roughly \$100/person to attend full 2-day conference. Keep in mind that presenters get their registration fees waived.
 - ii. West Michigan conference
 - iii. Michigan Historic Preservation Network
 - b. Host – TBD, would require more planning and discussion
 4. 1877 book rebinding – will cost about **\$250**
 5. Bus Tour – probably not for the 2024 budget, but keep this idea in mind and develop for a future program

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6. Miscellaneous informational or promotional materials to hand out – needed for standing displays and outreach events like OCPHS ice cream social, LHC. Budget about **\$500**.
 - a. Could include 11"x17" versions of the posters, the 1857 map, etc. 100 copies each or whatever the closest price break. Cards/bookmarks with info on OCHC, what you'll find on our website, how to get ahold of your local historical society, QR code that links to our site.
 - b. Also should have extra full size copies of the posters for displays and outreach.
7. Reprint 1877 History of Oakland County booklet – approximate cost **\$200**.
8. Other Projects:
 - a. Time Capsule (approximately **\$200**) and Essay Contest prize(s) like cash or gift cards or savings bonds; need to check to see if the County Commission/Oakland County Schools has objections to giving out a monetary prize like this. Contest is open to grades 6-12; 7 total prizes (one per grade/district). **Rosie will research this and get estimated cost not to exceed \$1000 to OCHC to approve by email by the end of the week.**
9. Dave D: motion to adopt a budget of \$8000 for 2024, with a contingency of up to \$1000 for the essay contest project to be addressed within one week. Rosie seconds. Discussion: Dave D.: should we build in additional contingency for 1857 map restoration, scans, etc. Motion withdrawn. Dave D.: motion to adopt a budget \$8500 budget to include cushion and \$1000 for a total of \$9500. Rosie seconds. Other discussion: Jerry: bump it up to \$10,000 to help us continue expanding our efforts into the community, pending essay contest cost (Rosie). **Motion approved to ask for \$10,000.**

c. Preservation

1. Preservation Committee
 - Carol – Update – tabled
 - Alternatives
2. At Risk Properties – Dave D. and Carol working on getting historic designation for ca. 1852 Payne-Waugh Cemetery (near Square Lake Road & Opdyke, Bloomfield); goal of getting the Township or Bowers Farm to mow it, install signage, maybe a bench. Dave D. is a descendant of one of the people interred there; looking to get ownership and file quit-claim, then sign it over to OCPHS.
- d. Facebook status – Stephanie and Tec Dave – good to go
- e. "1857 Land ownership map" – George working with the Bentley
- f. History Coalition Meeting – Tec Dave
 1. Agenda – Jim sent his suggestions to Dave D.; Dave will send out final agenda to everyone; need to get 2026 quarter millennial on everyone's agenda (see item h).
 2. Determine long term scheduling of Coalition meeting – ~~Carol has volunteered to be OCHC Coalition liaison~~; Carol has volunteered to co-chair the History Coalition with Maura Jung.
 1. Van Hoosen will host October 26 meeting. OCHC needs to figure out regular timing of meetings between July 14 meeting and the October 26 meeting.
- g. 2024 Local History Conference – OCHC Presentation Ideas-continue discussion of possibilities. 2024? 2025? Tabled.
- h. 1776-2026 – Semiquincentennial or Sestercentennial or (Quarter Millennial)

V. Committee reports

- a. Web site: - Tec Dave, Stephanie, Jim
 1. <https://www.oakgov.com/government/historical-commission>
 2. Continuing to grow – Coalition members have started submitting their events for the website Calendar and Steph is adding them as they come in. Note that calendar can be a bit harder to read on a smartphone vs. on a computer or tablet.
- b. Local History as a subset of American History - Jim, Stephanie, Rosie
 1. Great Migration Poster Status– Rosie/George – layout and much of the information decided, will add in QR code and mosaic. Discussion on approximate dates of Great Migration and how it relates to rural to city migration on a global level.
 2. Poster 4 – Dave D. and Rosie will be working on this together
 3. Additional Locations – see above
- b. Historic house research guide - Carol, Tec Dave, - tabled

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- c. African American history - Rosie, Carol - tabled
 - d. Essay contest and time capsule- Rosie – discussed above
- VI. New Business
 - a. Bloomfield Cemetery Help – Carol – discussed above
- VII. Confirm action items from today's meeting – Jerry, Dave W., and Jim will work the OCHC table at the OCPHS Ice Cream Social on 8/29 and 8/30
- VIII. Motion to adjourn Rosie, second by Jim, meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.
- IX. Next meeting: August 14, 2023.