

Riverside Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 15, 2021

Call to order: 7:15 PM by Acting Chairperson Richard Julian via ZOOM.

Present: Commissioners Richard Julian, Constance Guardi, Diane Ceragioli, James Petrzilka, Samantha Schroeder, Gina Furey and Patrick Smith-Ray.

Minutes of January 25, 2021: Motion to approve by Gina Furey. Seconded by Samantha Schroeder. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Motion to approve by Constance Guardi. Seconded by Gina Furey. Motion Carried.

Chairperson's Report:

- * Nothing Current to report.

Accessions: Motion, by Constance Guardi, to approve accession of donated paintings of Riverside Scenes, for display in the Library. Seconded by Gina Furey. Motion carried.

Continuing Business:

- * The disposition of the Bones excavated on Bloomingbank Rd. James Petrzilka indicated nothing new to report.
- * Facebook: Richard Julian reported he has posted some new photos which have generated a number of likes.
- * Landmarking the House at 214 Scottswood Rd: Patrick Smith-Ray reported that the Newberry Library has the papers of the original owner, who was a famous journalist. Unfortunately, the Chicago Recorder of Deeds office is still closed, precluding a definitive finding of early property ownership. The Commissioners urged Patrick to proceed with his application as he has already amassed a wealth of data in support of the Landmark designation. Patrick agreed.
- * Status of preparation of User Guide for Landmarking a House: Patrick Smith-Ray plans to send out this week his proposed User Guide for Landmarking a house. This is based on his own experience of the process, coupled with the existing village guidelines.
- * Past Perfect On-Line: Connie Guardi still working on this complex process. We can't proceed without Village support for our digitization to go online.
- * Plan for 2021: Connie Guardi reported that most plans for 2021 will be ongoing from 2020 except for the accessions awaiting processing in the West Well House and the need for new West Well House storage furniture to alleviate our critical space shortage. Gina Furey stated she is ready to help facilitate obtaining appropriate furniture through her contacts.
- * Museum Help Desk: We need to apply a consistent and trackable process to assist those

who come to us, remotely, for help related to their Historical questions and concerns. Samantha cautioned that we need to carefully document all our actions so that other Commissioners can follow each case. She has had problems following up on some questions. Richard reminded all to use the Log, the 3-Ring binder of instructions, and to be sure to clear the Voice Mail. Connie reminded everyone that '7' deletes junk voice mail. Richard reminded the Commissioners to use the check mark to indicate something is done, and the asterisk to indicate it still needs to be worked.

- * Sherman Fund: Connie reported that the fund is currently at \$3,400. The current plan is still to use the fund to buy file cabinets for the West Well House to help fix our storage problem. As previously discussed, Gina indicated she will assist.
- * Structure Files and Local History files digitizing project: Richard reported that Structure file drawers 13-14 are still out for digitization, leaving file drawers 15-16 as the last remaining. He is concerned because the current set has been out for 6 weeks. He has been calling the supplier with no response.
- * Volunteer recruitment for Museum work: Nothing to report.
- * Calendar 2022: Samantha was chosen by acclamation and agreed to head up this project. Connie stressed an October 31st deadline is needed. Some theme ideas were discussed, such as Olmsted 200, or the current Olmsted Society "Seed" project. More ideas are needed and the Commissioners all agreed to forward any likely candidates to Samantha.
- * Website: Connie reported that she tracked down Keith Burnham, the original developer of the online tour. His son, Jim, who still operates the business, indicated it would be cost prohibitive to try to update it because of unsupported software. It must be taken down.

Exhibits: Connie indicated that the Library exhibits have been up a considerable time and she will be working on an update.

Public Comment: None

New Business:

- * Olmsted's 200th Birthday: Connie still proposes that the Historical Commission host an Olmsted Birthday party in 2022 at the RailRoad Station. The Commissioners liked this idea and we will continue to discuss. Patrick suggested we consider a possible Riverside flag commemorating the 200th. Connie suggested the 200th Anniv. of Riverside's incorporation might be more appropriate for the flag.
- * Jim reported that he obtained temporary access to Newspapers.com and he was able to obtain some interesting historical Riverside newspaper articles and ads from the early days. He will forward these snips to the Historical Museum for its files. Patrick indicated that he was able to obtain regular access to "Newspapers" through the National Archives. Jim indicated that he will also pursue this.
- * Gina and Patrick suggested that we should be on the alert for acquiring Pandemic related material reflective of the historical period we are living through. This was agreed.

Adjournment: Connie Guardi motioned to adjourn at 8:20 PM. Seconded by Gina Furey.
Motion carried.