

Riverside Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 19, 2021

Call to order: 7:02 PM by Acting Chairperson Richard Julian.

Present: Commissioners Richard Julian, Constance Guardi, Diane Ceragioli, James Petrzilka, Samantha Schroeder, and Patrick Smith-Ray. Village President Elect Joseph Ballerine, Trustee Alex Gallegos. Absent Commissioner Gina Furey.

Minutes of March 15, 2021: Motion to approve by Connie Guardi. Seconded by Samantha Schroeder. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

Report was received 3/31/2021. Income to date \$582.42. Expenses \$499.00. Assigned fund balance \$76,835.

Chairperson's Report:

- * Acting Chairperson Richard Julian related that he and current Chairperson Connie Guardi met to discuss the Chairpersons duties so as to facilitate the leadership transition.
- * Richard Julian urged the Commissioners, when in the Museum, to thoroughly familiarize themselves with our collections so as to efficiently assist visitors and online queries.
- * Village President Elect Joseph Ballerine stated that he is going to set aside time at each Village board meeting for each Village Commission to relate their current activities, concerns, problems and needs.

Accessions: All the following were approved for accession.

- a. Nancy Dvorak/Nancy Moriarty Riverside postcards and 1928 phone book.
- b. Marge Walling cookbook.
- c. Nancy Dvorak/ Laverne Novak early area postcards.
- d. Unknown donor - Alfred Uhlich photo.

Continuing Business:

- * The disposition of the Bones excavated on Bloomingbank Rd. James Petrzilka indicated nothing new to report. He will follow with the DNA team in early May.
- * Facebook: Richard Julian reported our number of likes on Facebook continues increasing.
- * Landmarking the House at 214 Scottswood Rd: Patrick Smith-Ray has rewritten the process for landmarking a home based on his experience of the process, and has shared his proposed process with the Village Preservation Commission for review and comment.
- * Past Perfect On-Line: Connie Guardi stated that we should wait until our digitized structure files are accessible before we attempt to go online. Dick Julian stated that even then Past Perfect as an online vehicle may be of limited use. This will require further study.

- * Museum Help Desk: It was, again, emphasized that we need to continue to apply a consistent and trackable process to assist those who come to us, remotely, for help related to their Historical questions and concerns. Richard, again, reminded all to use the Log, the 3-Ring binder of instructions, and to be sure to check all E-Mails, and to clear the Voice Mail. Connie Guardi reminded everyone to also delete all legacy phone calls.
- * West Well House Project: Richard Julian has purchased 15 cabinets for use in the West Well House to help alleviate our critical space shortage. In particular we have many boxes of material that had been stored in the former Youth Center. Connie Guardi recommended these be transferred to the new cabinets with minimal labelling as they are of a bulk type, not needing finely tuned labeling. It was agreed to number each cabinet and use the numbers to delineate minimal storage particulars.
- * Structure Files and Local History files digitizing project: Richard reported that Structure file drawers 15-16, the last remaining, have now been returned. Structure files have now all been digitized, and our task now is how best to utilize them. Local History Files will be digitized next but will present some daunting problems of how best to organize them, as they contain voluminous materials that are not easy to systematize. Jim Petrzilka said he will study the problem and report back at the next meeting.
- * Calendar 2022: The Commissioners agreed that an Olmsted 200 theme should be pursued. Specifically a theme based on the final Olmsted book "Plans and Views of Communities and Private Estates" which highlights ten residential communities, beginning with Riverside. This will necessarily entail some other than Riverside inclusions. Samantha Schroeder solicited specific ideas and suggestions from the Commissioners regarding this theme as she attempts to find the best way to implement this approach. Connie Guard reminded all that an October 31st completion deadline, or even earlier, is needed.
- * Olmsted's 200th birthday: Connie Guardi said that a simple, yet tasteful, birthday party celebration at the railroad station would be most appropriate and she will pursue obtaining the venue.
- * Website: Richard, Connie, and former Commissioner Serge Ambrose resolved various issues needed for an update. Connie will consult with experts regarding possible next steps.
- * Covid 19 Memorabilia: The Commissioners again discussed the acquisition of pandemic themed signs and other memorabilia. We will all be on the lookout for same. It was noted that the Township Hall itself has a number of related signs on display.

Exhibits: Connie is considering various updates for the Library display. Nothing is imminent.

Public Comment: None

New Business: Jim Petrzilka related his discovery of a December 1869 letter in the Olmsted Digital Archives that relates some very early details about the progress of the Riverside project. He will share this letter with the Commissioners.

Adjournment: Connie Guardi motioned to adjourn at 8:10 PM. Seconded by Patrick Smith=Ray.
Motion carried.