

Sterling Heights Historical Commission
April 7, 2022
6:00 p.m. Meeting
Meeting held at the Upton House Museum
Minutes

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Bryan Wojciechowski at 6:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Cynthia Appleton, Nicholas Cavalli, John Connor, Douglas J. Harvey, Geoff Hoerauf, Bryan Wojciechowski, Tammy Turgeon

Excused: Meghan Mott attended via phone

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mott, supported by Cavalli. Motion carried.

IV. Minutes of February 3, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2022 was made by Appleton, supported by Connor. Motion carried.

V. Communications/Reports/Correspondence

A. Written report from Suzanne Hathon, Library Intern - Archives

There were 13 visitors in February and 8 visitors in March.

A script was written for a tour of the second floor of the Upton House. Turk worked with SHTV to create this tour video.

Christening gowns donated. They have been cataloged and are on display in the home life room.

Suzanne is scanning and uploading articles for the local history newspaper project. Garrett has resumed weeding the articles in the collection.

New brochures are displayed at City Hall, Recreation Center, Senior Center, Nature Center, and Library.

We are in the process of putting all donors in PastPerfect.

We found part of Sarah Upton's dress and Frank Upton's wedding vest in the basement (there was a note pinned to the clothing specifying ownership). We also found lace from Sarah Upton's dresses, and that is in an archive box in the office.

Answered reference question from the Police Department regarding the history of the SH City Seal, providing a few articles and a higher resolution scan of the seal.

Answered a reference question about the Clinton River Valley Country Club from a past resident calling from California that used to live on the property in the 1950s. He was provided with scans of documents and he asked for contact information to be able to make a donation to the historical commission. He also told Garrett that he had been in the Upton House as a child because his mother was interested in buying it around 1962.

The storywalk sign on the west side of the house was damaged by a facilities vehicle when clearing snow. It has been replaced and reinstalled as of 3/28.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Historical Marker Program
No new applications

B. Park and Canal Markers
No new information

C. Upton House Tours – February, March, April Volunteers
April 10th – Connor and Hoerauf
May 15th – Mott and Appleton
June 12th – Harvey and Connor
Beginning in May, the Sunday Upton House Museum tours will be an open house style with no reservations.

D. Historical Display Case in Community Center
Connor will put in a display of Michigan license plates. Turgeon will purchase stands to hold them up.

E. May History Program at Library

Antique appraisal program will be held May 18th at 6:30pm at the Library. Ask Amanda to promote on the Library's FB page as well as the city's email newsletter.

F. Gravestone Cleaning Program

This program will be held on July 23rd at 10am for Historical Commissioners and up to 10 members of the public. After lunch, commissioners can go back to the cemetery with the professor and volunteers to learn more about gravestone repairs.

G. Holcombe Beach Historical Marker

VII. New Business

A. Sterlingfest

Sterlingfest is July 28 – 30, 2022 this year. The Commission decided to have open house style tours on July 29th and 30th from 1-4pm. Volunteer sign up sheets will be available at the next meeting.

B. Accessions

Harvey donated a potato peeler and apple peeler. Appleton will get him forms. Christening gowns were donated as mentioned in Suzanne's report earlier. A Library staff member would like to donate a painting of the Clinton River. Turgeon showed the Commission pictures of the painting. The Commission agreed to accept the painting. Turgeon will ask Hathon to provide paperwork.

Turgeon discussed the remaining budget for this fiscal year and next fiscal year. Next year the Commission's budget is proposed to have an increase to help pay for the wainscoting of the kitchen. Ideas for spending the remaining budget for this year are 2 palms, supplies for the intern, cleaning of the Upton clothing, purchasing a period child's outfit and mannequin, a dry sink, and a sign for the front that can indicate when the house is open.

C. Fundraising

Commissioners want to focus on fundraising next year. Participation in the Treasure Hunters Market would be a good way to fundraise with items that are not needed for the house (assigned to Turgeon). The Commission also thought a flower sale would be good (assigned to Appleton). Promoting the Upton House for photographs for weddings might also be a good fundraiser (assigned to Wojciechowski).

VIII. Communication with Citizens

Commissioners brought up the Memorial Day Parade. Turgeon will inquire if the Commission can participate. If the commission can be included, would like to purchase 3,000 pieces of "old time" candy. (yes the Historical Commission has been accepted)

IX. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Cavalli at 7:25 p.m., supported by Connor. Motion carried.

Next meeting: June 2, 2022 at 6pm