

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
ST. CLAIR SHORES HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MacHarg Room
Tuesday, April 4, 2023**

PRESENT:

Chairperson	Mr. Gerald Sielagoski
Vice-Chairperson	Mr. John Cilluffo
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs. Kathleen Campbell
Members	Ms. Kathryn Gargalino
	Ms. Janet Horan
	Ms. Kay VanDeGraaf
City Librarian	Mrs. Rosemary Orlando
Assistant Librarian	Ms. Stephanie Fair
Council Liaison	Ms. Candice Rusie
Audience:	Ms. Sydney

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sielagoski called the Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission to order at 7:00 PM

Sielagoski introduced and welcomed recently appointed Historical Commission member, Kathryn Gargalino, who has lived in the Shores most of her life. While researching for a project in college, she learned a great deal about the city and has been interested in the Historical Commission for quite some time.

Ms. Sydney joined the meeting. She is interested in writing a book about cemeteries in Michigan and wanted to find out more about the Historical Commission.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Horan, supported by VanDeGraaf, to adopt the agenda.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Campbell, supported by Cilluffo, to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2023, Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

A. Museum Activities

There were two successful Pysanki programs. Docents have been scheduled but more will be needed, as librarians are filling in as docents. There have been two docent training sessions for librarians, so they are able to give tours.

Three school classes toured the Selinsky Green Farmhouse Museum and SCS Public Library as scheduled.

The curator position has been posted; thus far, 24 applicants have applied.

There will be a meeting with the Yardeners regarding their planned Garden Walk.

The plaque for the Blumline bench will be installed when the weather gets warmer.

The Eagle Scout project was discussed. Project completion target is May.

Rusie submitted the repair/maintenance reports in the Fall and then again, with the Assistant City Manager and the entire City Council. There has been no response as to what repairs will be covered by the City at this time; however, Rusie believes that some or all of the repairs will be covered. Members commented that some repairs will be necessary, because of safety concerns, i.e. the exterior stairs. Rusie suggested that the Commission send her a paragraph regarding the required repairs so that she can present the list to the City Council.

B. Historical Society Report

Form 990-N for 2022 will be filed with the IRS next week. Historical Society bank account balances are as follows:

\$25,219.56 in the Investment account

\$8,004.28 in the 2nd investment account

\$5,321.06 in the checking account.

Horan contacted Susan Patricca who had emailed the Historical Commission expressing interest in joining the Historical Society. However, Horan discovered that Patricca was interested in joining the Historical Commission and showed Patricca how to apply online.

C. Genealogy Group Report

No genealogy group report. Sielagoski was contacted via the HC email address by a gentleman searching for his second-great grandparent's interment locations at Erin Grove Cemetery. Sielagoski suggested checking the 9-volume set of books called, "Cemeteries of Macomb County, Michigan" published in 1991, which contains transcriptions of grave sites from cemeteries in Macomb County. He also suggested contacting the Erin Grove Cemetery Association which is in the process of digitizing past records of the cemetery.

Another gentleman inquired about the publication status of Muskrat Tales and availability of past issues. Sielagoski informed him that no issues have been published since 2005 and that past issues are still available at the SCSPL. Sielagoski also shared that one of the HC goals is to digitize the past issues of Muskrat Tales.

D. Comments by Individual Commission Members

Commission members introduced themselves.

Campbell shared some of the Trinity registers, as well as a map of Kramer Street.

Cilluffo shared that he is becoming a member of Cool Cities Committee, which is planning to have a meeting between the members of the SCS Boards, Commissions and Committees.

E. Librarians Report

Assistant Library Director, Stephanie Fair was in attendance.

Orlando suggested that teen volunteers at the SCSPL could compile sets of Muskrat Tales. Campbell recommended that they initially compile ten sets.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Historical Markers for Residences/Businesses Update:

Cilluffo will contact the Flanagan Family at 22623 Chapoton regarding a historical marker dedication.

The historical marker application for Karen Pelham at 30114 Jefferson still lacks sufficient information to be accepted.

No additional applications have been received.

City Historical Marker Update:

The Historical Markers for Eagle Pointe and Trinity Episcopal Church have been delivered to the SCSPL but have not yet been installed. Campbell met with Trinity Episcopal to identify possible locations for the marker. They decided to use the location at the corner of the property. Campbell will send photos to Orlando to forward to the DPW to use to identify the location where the marker should be installed.

The marker brochures have not yet been printed because they include the Lake Shore Church and Redeemer Lutheran markers, which have not been installed yet.

Campbell presented posters and ads for Historical Commission member recruitment. Gargalino proposed that a QR code be added. Stephanie will produce the needed QR code and email it to Campbell.

Moved by Sielagoski, supported by Cilluffo, to print four posters, one of each version from the advertising budget.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried.

Cilluffo will send a small version of the poster to C&G News for inclusion in the newspaper.

A discussion followed regarding the marker requested by John Caron about Lake St. Clair. Campbell will email Caron with the proposed layout.

C&G Newspaper Article:

The article did not effectively highlight the Historical Commission's efforts.

Request for photos and historical artifacts

Chef Bobby has requested historic photos and artifacts for Blossom Heath. Candice will get more information as to type and size of photos that he had in mind.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Cilluffo met with Matthew Hubinsky, Coordinator from the Senior Center. Hubinsky has located two bins of photos from Senior Center events that the Commission might want for the archives. Cilluffo will schedule a sub-committee meeting to sort photos and determine what should be archived.

Sielagoski sent possible new candidate for the Historical Commission, Michael Biafora, information on how to apply for consideration to be appointed to the HC. Rusie will check to see if his application has been received.

Cilluffo was contacted by SCS resident, Sally Roberts, after seeing the article in C&G News. Roberts is 92 years old and has lived in St. Clair Shores her entire life. Sielagoski indicated that Roberts was interviewed in 2017 as part of the oral history program. Cilluffo will contact her.

Sielagoski requested that the HC webpage be updated to show that the Historical Commission Secretary/Treasurer is Kathy Campbell.

VII. AUDIENCE

Ms. Sydney a resident of St. Clair Shores.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by VanDeGraaf, supported by Horan to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 P.M.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

The next regular meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the SCSPL in the MacHarg Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Campbell,
Secretary/Treasurer