

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
ST. CLAIR SHORES HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**MacHarg Room  
Tuesday, August 1, 2023**

**PRESENT:**

Chairperson	Mr. Gerald Sielagoski
Vice-Chairperson	Mr. John Cilluffo
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs. Kathleen Campbell
Members	Ms. Janet Horan
	Ms. Kay VanDeGraaf
Museum Curator	Ms. Kelly Guyman
Assistant Library Director	Ms. Stephanie Fair
City Librarian	Mrs. Rosemary Orlando
Council Liaison	Ms. Candice Rusie

**EXCUSED:**

Member	Ms. Kathryn Gargalino
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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Sielagoski called the Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission to order at 7:00 PM. Gargalino informed Sielagoski that she would not be able to attend the meeting due to a medical condition and requested to be excused.

Moved by VanDeGraaf, supported by Campbell, to excuse Gargalino.

Ayes: All      Nays: None      Motion Carried.

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

Ayes: All      Nays: None      Motion Carried.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Campbell, supported by Horan, to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2023, Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission.

Ayes: All      Nays: None      Motion Carried.

**IV. INFORMATION REPORTS**

**A. Museum Activities**

Ms. Kelly Guyman, the new curator of the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum, was introduced to the Commission. Ms. Guyman has a degree in history and is presently working on her Masters Degree in Library Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She was formerly employed at Pewabic Pottery for 5 years as an archivist and remains a part-time employee at the Holocaust Center.

The Annual Tea Party will proceed on August 23 with a projected expenses of \$500.00. The Dulcimer group has been booked. Historical Society Board members Sielagoski and Horan were present. In their capacity as Historical Society board members, it was moved by Sielagoski and supported by Horan, to approve the Tea Party Expenditure.

Ms. Guyman has several exhibits planned, has registered the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum with Google Maps, which provides the museum hours and makes it easier to locate the museum. She is establishing a social media presence for the SGFM. The Facebook page will be City compliant. Guyman sought approval to proceed with the Facebook page. Sielagoski opened the topic of the Facebook page for questions. Cilluffo asked about the frequency of site updates and Guyman replied she would like to have weekly updates to include information on cultural movements. Campbell asked if anyone would have oversight as far as content and accuracy. Orlando informed the Commission that she would be handling oversight.

Moved by Cilluffo, supported by VanDeGraaf, to proceed with the Facebook page.

Ayes: All      Nays: None      Motion Carried.

The Historical Commission members introduced themselves and welcomed Ms. Guyman.

#### B. Historical Society Report

The Form 990-N for 2022 has been filed online. The Historical Society bank account balances are as follows:

\$25,220.40 in the Investment account

\$8,004.56 in the 2nd investment account

\$15,911.06 in the checking account

Horan spoke with Sharon Farrell who contacted the Historical Commission regarding her historical society membership. Farrell indicated that she had paid her dues, but did not receive a membership card. Horan explained that the Historical Society was no longer issuing membership cards. A discussion followed regarding membership cards. Campbell questioned whether there were any cards left from previous years and whether new cards would be necessary. The general consensus was that members could be contacted by email or U.S. mail in the future.

Further discussion followed regarding the Historical Society membership list. Orlando suggested that we start with the mailing list that the Library uses to send out the newsletter and indicated that she would generate the list and send it to Campbell so that the process of contacting prior members of the Historical Society can begin, in the hopes of revitalizing the Society. Orlando will also look for a renewal letter and/or thank you letter and will send them to Campbell.

C. Genealogy Group Report

No report. The Genealogy group has not held any recent meetings. The Local History Center will remain closed to the public until library renovations have been completed

D. Comments by Individual Commission Members

Cilluffo reminded everyone of the Cool Cities Committee City-Wide Garage Sale on August 19 and 20. There are already more than 700 homes that have signed up for the sale. Orlando asked if the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum could be a part of the City-Wide Garage Sale. Guyman has already organized the attic at the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse. She has a lot of really good ideas including being able to create your own Pewabic Pottery tile.

Campbell reminded everyone that the dedication of the mural by Haylie Mousseau in “Downtown St. Clair Shores” on the wall of Ace Hardware will be on Saturday August 12th at 5 p.m.

E. Librarians Report

The SCSPL switched to summer hours of operation after Memorial Day

No updates on library renovations. The SCSPL is still working on the grant application for the renovations. The target date for completion of the renovations is December 2024, working on the grant agreement.

Yardeners will have a plant exchange and the garden tour on Saturday.

Stephanie Fair provided a report on quotes for the repairs on the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse. One company proposed a metal roof that will last 100 years as a consideration to replace the roof. All roof quotes were above \$32,000 which would indicate the need to use the City bid process versus quotes. Porch quotes all include tear down and replacement. Campbell asked about using a new material on a historic restoration for a museum. The topic was tabled for future discussion. The City Council will make the final determination on what repairs will be performed based on the recommendation from the Historical Commission.

One of the quoting contractors discovered that his great-grandparents appeared in one of the photos in the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse.

V. OLD BUSINESS

City Historical Marker Update:

Campbell presented the proof for the Lake Shore Church marker. There are still some problems with the photos. She will contact the church for other options. Campbell suggests that we use all black & white photos for this marker.

The Trinity Episcopal Church historical marker dedication went very well. It did raise the question of the need for some type of portable sound amplification system. Orlando informed the Commission that the SCSPL has one.

Rusie checked on the progress of a new photo for the Pier marker at Blossom Heath. Steve Foulkrod of the St. Clair Shores Communications Department will send new pictures next week.

#### Historical Markers for Residences/Businesses Update:

The three new applications are still in various stages of progress: 30129 Jefferson (McGhie), 22611 Colony Street (Subotich) and 22431 Englehardt (Magee-Swetlic). Cilluffo will keep the Commission posted on the progress. There have been some problems with proof of dates for several of the homes. Circa for the year can be used if there is some concrete evidence to approximate the year of construction.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

Campbell was contacted by Alyssa Ochss from C&G News regarding Rose's Family Diner. Campbell forwarded the information received from Rusie along with several internet items. There was no information found in *Muskrat Tales*. Rosie's was previously a steak house chain restaurant. Ochss also requested an interview regarding the vacancies on City Boards and Commissions. Sielagoski responded via email to her inquiry since he was unavailable for an interview within the timeframe requested.

Jenna Jones from the Metro Times requested permission to use a Jefferson Beach photo from the digital archive. Jones sent the required paperwork to the Commission and archivist Heidi Christein provided the photo.

Light poles that were allegedly from Jefferson Beach Amusement Park were offered for sale to the City by a gentleman in Roseville. The City was not interested at this time.

The Annual Report was presented by Sielagoski. He commented on the turn over in Historical Commission membership this past fiscal year and hopes that the future will be more stable. Kelly Guyman will need to be added to the roster, as of June 21, 2023. Part of the oversight of the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum will include implementation of the repair plans for the house. There are plans to investigate updating the bylaws, since the Commission is chartered and part of the City Charter and there is uncertainty as to what can be updated. Rusie will review the City Charter and report her findings to the Commission.

Sielagoski reviewed some of the Commission's goals stressing the need to digitize the past oral Histories and continue adding to the collection. Sielagoski asked VanDeGraaf if she would be interested in leading the oral history project. Discussion followed. VanDeGraaf, for the most part, was agreeable to helping with the project.

Other goals to be considered this year included digitization of the past issues of *Muskrat Tales* so they will be more accessible to the public and possibly adding small historical markers to the parks and playfields. The Historical Commission should continue to request photos from the community showing day to day life in St. Clair Shores. Sielagoski will update the Annual Report and submit it to the City Clerk's office.

Campbell brought up the preservation of the mural in the bar at Blossom Heath.

Orlando inquired as to who sent the photos of water tower coming down. She would like the information so it could be included in the archives. Fair will reach out on the Facebook page requesting the names of photographers. Orlando will also contact C&G News since they also published photos of the water tower being demolished.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Horan, supported by Cilluffo to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried

The next regular meeting of the St. Clair Shores Historical Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the SCSPL in the MacHarg Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Campbell,  
Secretary/Treasurer