

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Capitola Historical Museum Board of Trustees on February 4, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Kisling called the Regular Meeting of the Capitola Historical Museum Board of Trustees to order at 5:35 p.m. on Thursday, February 4, 2021, Online via Zoom.

PRESENT: Board Members Pamela Greeninger, Brian Legakis, Emmy Mitchell-Lynn, David Peyton, Dean Walker, Gordon van Zuiden and President Niels Kisling
Youth Representative Joshua Henshaw

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Museum Curator Frank Perry

GUESTS: None

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ~ None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Consider Minutes of January 7, 2021

President Kisling asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes.

ACTION: Board Member Legakis moved, seconded by Board Member Mitchell-Lynn, to approve the Minutes of January 7, 2021, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND CURATOR

A. Treasurer's Report (August, October, January and April) ~ None

B. President's Report

President Kisling heard that one of our volunteers had COVID and was in the hospital. He called the volunteer today, who is at home recovering and seems to be in good spirits.

President Kisling also informed the board that he found another Shadowbrook menu from 1980 that he purchased and will be donating to the Museum.

C. Curator's Report

Curator Perry summarized the written Curator's Report that was sent to the board via email as follows:

1) He informed the board that he has ordered a metal rack for the framed art collection and that it should arrive soon. If the rack works well, he would like to order three more which may require more funding. (*See Business Item 5.B.*)

2) Curator Perry said he got a call from the new owner of the historic Hooper family residence on Cliff Avenue who is seeking old photos of the house from the Museum. He would like to restore the house and make the front porch look like it did originally.

3) He has been continuing to meet via Zoom with representatives of other museums in the county to discuss matters of mutual interest. There was a meeting on Monday to discuss historical collections and oral histories and how to preserve them.

4) Curator Perry said he has been backing up all the museum's books to the City's new Cloud storage, including the Companion to Capitola, Capitola Coloring Book, Digging into Capitola History (brochure), the Rispin biography, the index to Carolyn Swift's book, etc. The next project to come will be photos of recent events.

5) He commented on *The Hidden Hand* novel and informed the board that he contacted Sari Edelstein (Associate Professor of English & Undergraduate Programs Co-Director, Center for the Humanities, Culture and Society at the University of Massachusetts, Boston) who sent him a copy of her 2010 paper on the Southworth novel and its importance in the history of American literature. It is a scholarly article. Board Members Legakis and Mitchell-Lynn requested that he provide them with a copy of that article. In addition, he found that a woman in Iowa did her Ph.D. dissertation about the impact of *The Hidden Hand* on American culture as well. Curator Perry said he is listening to the audio version of the book.

4. C. Curators Report (Continued)

6) Laurie Hill, former Begonia Festival president, donated two very large boxes of additional material for the festival archives at the museum. He and Kathleen will be going through the boxes and curating the items.

7) Curator Perry said he thought it would be fun to design a postal cachet for use on the occasion of the Rispin Mansion Centennial, which is June 1. Once completed he will take the stamped envelopes to the Capitola Post Office to have them cancelled.

D. Report on Volunteers

President Kisling said he hasn't seen any of the volunteers himself. Board Members Peyton and Greeninger both said they have spoken with George Wightman who is ready to get back to volunteer at the museum.

President Kisling would like to send the link to the Rispin website to the volunteers in a new email message. Curator Perry said that would be great, and he also wondered if the volunteers would be interested in the link to the audio version of *The Hidden Hand* novel. President Kisling said he would mention it in his email to see if there is interest.

Board Member Peyton said he would like to obtain the audio link to *The Hidden Hand*.

5. BUSINESS

A. Annual Report

Board Member Legakis commented on the Annual Report saying it is a great report, and that it is especially impressive for not having been open last year. He praised Curator Perry for all the 2020 accomplishments. He mentioned reading an article in the *Sentinel* that the City of Capitola is not in as bad a shape financially as anticipated and, hopefully, the cuts to the Museum's 2020/21 budget can be restored.

Curator Perry responded saying that visitors still came to Capitola in 2020 and spent money, so the sales tax revenues were better than expected. Also, during the Santa Cruz County fires, people who were evacuated from their homes and many fire fighters stayed in Capitola hotels which helped increase TOT tax revenues.

B. Funding for Art Storage Racks

Curator Perry summarized the written agenda report that was provided to the board via email and responded to questions of board members.

ACTION: Board Member Greeninger moved to approve the recommended action to authorized an expenditure of up to \$1,250 for new shelving for the framed art collection to be taken from the Donation Fund, if necessary. President Kisling suggested that amount be increased to \$1,500, just in case, and he seconded the amended motion to increase the expenditure amount to \$1,500. Board Member Greeninger accepted the amendment.

Under discussion of the motion, Board Member Mitchell-Lynn said she was looking for shelves also and, after seeing the picture in the staff report, she found some in Seaside for just \$50 each. The dimensions are slightly different and they do not have wheels, but they are brand new in boxes at a considerable cost savings. Curator Perry said that having wheels on them is important and he would like the shelving to all match. He will nevertheless take a look.

After board discussion, the motion with the amended expenditure amount of \$1,500 carried unanimously.

C. Newsletter

President Kisling thanked Board Member Peyton for his article about Paul Parsons.

Board Member Legakis believes we should be prepared to reopen the Museum if the COVID cases go down and the State allows museums to reopen. He said it is not a bad idea to let the volunteers know that we want to see if they plan to volunteer at such time as we can reopen. He also wondered if we should include a copy of the Annual Report with the email blast to volunteers. Curator Perry thought that was a great idea.

5. C. Newsletter

Curator Perry tried to connect Board Member Mitchell-Lynn with the editor of the book on Martina Castro, and he wondered if she was able to reach him? She was not able to connect with him. Board Member Mitchell-Lynn also mentioned that she has quite a few classes this semester and will most likely not have a lot of extra time.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

Curator Perry discussed the email sent to the board from City Clerk Chloe Woodmansee regarding an Advisory Bodies New Member Training session via Zoom on Wednesday, February 10 at 5:00 p.m. He said it is optional. Board Member Mitchell-Lynn does not believe she received it. Curator Perry will forward the message to her.

Board Member Greeninger discussed her knowledge of the committee training and said it would be very useful information for board members to attend. She said staff normally reviews the Board, Commission and Committee Guide, which is given to all committee members upon being appointed, and then responds to questions of attendees. Board Member Greeninger advised she was instrumental in preparing the Guide when she was City Clerk.

Board Member Mitchell-Lynn said our new mayor, Yvette Brooks, would be speaking at the Santa Cruz County Democrats Meeting tonight via Zoom.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion of Board Member van Zuiden, seconded by Board Member Mitchell-Lynn, the Capitola Historical Museum Board of Trustees unanimously adjourned at 6:18 p.m. to its next regular meeting to be held on **Thursday**, March 4, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., Online via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Greeninger, Secretary

APPROVED BY THE BOARD AT ITS MEETING ON 3/4/2021