

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
Meeting Minutes
7-18-2011

Present: Lani Chisnell, Bill Nickels, Jane Schmiedeke, Hank Prbys (Presiding) Alex Pettit, Claudia Pettie, Joe Mattimoe, Pattie Harrington, Jan Arps-Prundeanu

Absent: Bonnie Penet, Anne Stevenson, Don Randazzo, Barry LaRue

Guest: John Harrington, representing the Towner Foundation, provided an update on their intentions to purchase the Towner House outright from the Presbyterian Church for the appraised price of \$17,000 and transfer it as a donation to the Ypsilanti Historical Society. Any assistance from the YHF would be appreciated.

Home tour update: Pre-festival party will be held at the Yankee Air Museum – August 11th. Post tour party will be at the Schreiber's. Tour ticket brochures and posters will be ready soon. Another meeting will be held with chief guides to distribute tour booklets and assure that everyone has the guides and information they need. Information will be on the web site soon. A portion of the tour proceeds will be donated to the restoration of two historic signs.

Arps-Prundeanu reported that she signed an Ypsilanti Heritage Festival application form that stipulates that 10% of gross sales (over \$1000) shall be paid to the Festival Committee. This is a change from our previous understanding – which was 10% of sales of tickets on the day of the tour only. This will result in a bit larger share (\$50 - 150) of our profit being shared with the Festival. (They do not expect a percentage of sponsorship revenues.) Discussion reflected support for supporting the Festival, but some concerns regarding the process. Decision to determine the level of support due after the tour.

Jack Harris memorial: Hank has investigated details regarding the cost of a bench with a memorial sign that would be placed near the Stachewicz house on the Eastern University campus. Hank has talked with Seth Blair who indicated the total cost would be less than \$2000. Cliff Larkins has been consulted and he is supportive of the idea. Hank will check on text for the sign commemorating Jack's contributions to Historic Preservation and specific sites. There was also discussion and support for commemorating Jack's contributions to the preservation of the Towner House.

Bill Nickels reported that he has recruited 5 volunteers to serve as "historic" guides on CVB and EMU buses that give tours of the city and Historic District. (Volunteers: Ed Penet, Anne Stevenson, Barry LaRue, Tim Colburn and Bill Nickels). Hank volunteered and three other suggestions were made: Tom Dodd; James Mann and Pete Murdock.

Anne Stevenson has indicated (in e-mail to Hank) that for health and personal reasons, she will be unable to continue work with the Foundation on the newsletter and programs.

Clarification needed on whether this constitutes a resignation.

Newsletter: Discussion regarding just how to proceed with newsletters, including discussion of the purpose and need for printed issues. Challenge is coming up with material for quarterly issues – may need just two: Home Tour issue and Good News Edition. Recommended that program postcards continue to announce the programs. Lani will check into “mailchimp.com program as possible electronic newsletter.

No update on video project.

Web site update: Lani reported we will need to upgrade our server to facilitate Word Press(?). She anticipates that this will involve a very short “down” time for the site.

Other:

By-Laws will be copied for all members and provided at next meeting.

By-laws stipulate that our checks require two signatures – however, given that the cost for the addition of a name is \$600, it was decided that another board members’ initials would satisfy the intent of the rule, at no additional cost.

Decision was made to authorize \$600.00 for Huron Signs to remove and pack the historic signs (in advance of the proceeds from the Home Tour.)

Next Meeting: Sept. 12, 2011 – 7:30 at Standard Printing

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jan Arps-Prundeanu
7-19-2011