



**Sheridan Historical Society
Trustee Meeting
Tuesday at 5:30 PM
September 22, 2020**

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Dallas Hall in the “I Dream” room in the Sheridan Recreation Center at 3325 W. Oxford Avenue at 5:30 pm.

Board members present: Jeannie Berens, Don Ezell, Dallas Hall, and Roger Rowland. Ernie Camacho was absent. Ernie notified the secretary that he had another obligation. There were no guests at the meeting.

A motion was made by Don and seconded by Jeannie to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2020 meeting. The motion was approved.

The Treasurer’s report for the eight months ending August was provided by Roger. The total balances in all accounts is \$8,007.89. The difference between the Treasurer’s Report and the August Balance sheet is a deposit of \$200.00 for Fire Department Books for the Carter family. See Exhibit A.

The membership list was reviewed. Dues are owed by Jeannie and Don. Dues were paid by Jeannie and Don. Don paid for two years and Jeannie paid for one year.

Roger completed the 2019 Form for 990PF tax return and it was mailed to the IRS on March 20, 2020. The return has been posted on the society website. Roger explained there will be change in filing of the tax return next year. The IRS will require electronic filing via an approved provider. There are about two dozen authorized companies. Not all the providers can do the 990PF form. Most packages were several hundred dollars. The best vendor price is Express Tax Exempt in South Carolina at \$99.90. Their website is www.expresstaxexempt.com.

The Colorado charitable annual report filing was completed on March 28, 2020. A copy of the filing is on the society website.

Roger prepared 136 commemorative certificates for the 2020 graduates from Sheridan High School and SOAR Academy that were signed by Dallas. They were received by the graduates when they picked up their diplomas. There were no in person graduation ceremonies because of the pandemic.

The Colorado Annual Report filing was completed on June 20, 2020.

Roger also noted the “Colorado Tax Check Off Donation” from 2019 Colorado tax refunds. This is known as the “ReFund CO” program. Anyone filing a Colorado state income tax return and is due a refund can make a donation to any recognized Colorado charitable organization. Not all societies are recognized. An organization has to be registered for at least five consecutive years. Our society has been registered since 2011. Our registration number is 20033006613.

Our park shelter reservation for the “All Class” picnic scheduled for August 2 was cancelled just in time. We received a refund of \$100.00. One day later and we would not have gotten the refund.

A motion was made by Jeannie and seconded by Dallas to accept the treasurer’s report. The motion was approved.

Roger is requesting reimbursement of \$104.45 for postage and 2020 graduation commemorative certificates. A detail list of expenses was provided by Roger. See Exhibit B. A motion was made by Dallas and seconded by Jeannie to approve the reimbursement. The motion was approved.

Roger has paid \$30.00 in state filing fees and has applied them to his dues in lieu of reimbursement. He requested a motion to approve the extending his membership in lieu of reimbursement. A motion was made by Don and seconded by Jeannie to approve the extension of membership in lieu of reimbursement. The motion was approved.

A copy of the letter from the secretary was provided to the board. The letter was sent to Miniello Consulting in support of their funding request for HUD funding for Pancratia Hall at Loretto Heights. See Exhibit C.

Resolution #1, Series of 2020

Resolution #1, Series of 2020 “Providing for the continued operation of the Society in response to COVID-19” was approved by unanimous consent on April 6, 2020. The secretary recommends a motion to confirm the approval of the resolution. See Exhibit D.

A motion was made by Roger and seconded by Dallas to confirm the approval of Resolution #1, Series of 2020. The motion was approved.

Schools Committee

“The History of Sheridan High School Music and Theater” was completed in August. It is available on the society website at the following link: http://www.shs-co.org/schools_h_history.htm. It was noted the “Dedication” was to Mary Lewis. Mary taught music and theater at the high school from 1991 to 2019. A period of 28 years.

The next “All Class Picnic for 2021” is scheduled for August 1, 2021. We should be able to reserve the shelter in early January of 2021. The person that previously handed our reservations Shauna D’Amato is no longer with South Suburban. Michelle Helm is temporarily overseeing permit requests for South Suburban.

Fund Raising

This issue had been previously discussed by the board along with some ideas. Roger and Dallas have been working on targeted fund raising mailing list for long time Sheridan residents. The list is derived from the voter registration list. 135 homes have been selected. Roger and Dallas will work on a letter which would introduce the society, solicit donations and memberships, and ask for potential family histories for longtime residents. Especially those families that have multiple generations that lived in Sheridan or were active in the community either with the city or the school district. Roger said we could also include our multi fold brochure with the letter. See Exhibit E.

We also want to follow up on the idea by sending a similar mailing to long time Sheridan businesses. Dallas was requested to find out if we could obtain an Excel file of businesses licensed by the city.

Don brought up the idea of a strategic plan. He was concerned about the long term existence of the society. Turnover within the board has been significant in the last five years. Four members of the board have changed since May of 2015. A lot of historical knowledge was lost when Cliff Mueller and Chuck West passed away in 2018. We should look out five, ten, and fifteen years and set goals. Part of the goals should be to bring on new board members. Don indicated that he would probably be moving to Kansas in about three years. Growing the organization and revenue base are also important issues to address.

Roger mentioned similar problems with the Friends of Historic Fort Logan and the Englewood Historic Preservation Society. Both have suffered loss in their membership base and are functioning on the sheer will of a few core people. The Englewood society had recently lost a significant revenue source because of changes made by their city. Support from the city has also been a question for our society. We received significant support from Sheridan Celebrates until 2010. That year the city changed the make up and focus of that organization. They also contracted with a paid coordinator to drive the activities of Sheridan Celebrates.

The idea of a successor organization was mentioned given the concern of the long term existence of our historical society. Roger had suggested the Littleton History Museum would be a good designated successor especially for the preservation of written materials and other tangible donations we have received. Which was a great segue into our next topic.

Doug Sovern – Former Sheridan Fire Department Volunteer

An obituary has been prepared for Doug Sovern and a bunker gear donation was received. Roger met with Donna Sovern and her daughter. A copy of the obituary was handed out to the board. It will be added to the society website. See exhibit F. Roger has prepared a couple of new forms for the society. The first is for a “Collection Donation” and the second is an “Authorization Form for Use of Photographs.” The idea for these forms came from the Littleton History Museum. Both forms were used for Doug Sovern. See exhibit G and H.

Website Update for Class Reunions

Updates have been completed for the society website for high school “Class Reunions.” See Exhibit I. The following items were added: “Quick Guide for Reunions”, “Sheridan High School Reunion Tours”, and “Obtaining an EIN to Open a Bank Account.” Kristin Mayer Hargett from the Class of 1989 did most of the work for the “Quick Guide.” Roger presented a “Thank You” card to Kristin for the board members to sign.

Park Historical Signs

Pictures of the new historical sign at Chase Park was given to the board. The pictures were taken by Dallas Hall. The Chase Park renovation was just recently completed. See Exhibit J. It was also noted that a new historical sign has also been placed in the Sheridan Square Park.

Mark Campbell Retirement

Police Chief Mark Campbell retired effective July 2, 2020. Mark had served as the police chief since May 2, 2011. Prior to Sheridan, Mark was with the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Department for 29 years. From 2002 to 2011 he was the Undersheriff.

Upon his retirement Mark and his wife moved to their new home in Estes Park, Colorado. Bruce Williamson is the interim chief. The selection process for a new chief has been in progress for over two months.

For the first time, on June 22, 2020 the city put a video on the internet featuring the City Manager announcing the vacancy and seeking applications for a new chief. The video is available on “YouTube” at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=Pv16FNhLR3w>. There are currently seven open police chief positions in Colorado. Dallas informed the board the City Manager is expected to name his choice for the new chief shortly.

Next Meeting Date

Normally the next meeting would be November 24, 2020. That is the week of Thanksgiving. It was a consensus of the board the next meeting should be January 26, 2021 with a start time of 5:30 pm. The location of the meeting will be determined later.

There was no other business for the board and the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Submitted by Roger Rowland
Secretary/Treasurer

Please Visit our web page: <http://www.shs-co.org>