

Evansville Grove Society, Inc.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
29 January 2025 (Rescheduled from January 22)
Historic Baker Building

I. **Call to Order** - President Kris Thome called the meeting to order at 3:46 pm.

II. **Roll Call** - Members attending: Kris Thome, Arthur McEvoy, Berta Hansen, Donna Hamilton, Judy Nichols. Absent: Marcia Kremer, Dan Stephans

III. **Draft Agenda** – Draft agenda approved by Art and Judy.

IV. **Motion to Approve Minutes** – Donna made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Kris. Motion carried. Kris to email Judy the new minutes format to try.

V. **Treasurer's Report** –

a. In Marcia's absence, Kris went over the December financials and advised that we were back to using the "not-for-profit" forms.

b. QuickBooks is going well. Marcia consulted Roger Roth for assistance. No response as of yet.

c. Last year's Chamber membership fee was \$74 at the "booster" level. Kris checked into the details of the "Chairman" level. Cost would be \$88.71, which includes more promotions and Evansville events Facebook page. Kris made a motion to approve the cost of \$88.71 for upgraded renewal. Seconded by Donna. Motion carried.

d. Kris made a motion to donate \$100 to Creekside for use of their space for genealogy meetings. Berta seconded. Motion carried.

e. After discussing the \$250 cost versus benefit of advertising in the Evansville Business Directory, it was determined to discontinue this form of advertising at this time. Monies can be used elsewhere.

f. Judy made a motion to approve the December financial reports. Berta seconded. Motion carried.

VI. **Correspondence** –

a. Marcia Dobbs is trying to connect us with Josh Firgens, from the University of Wisconsin, for a presentation or other support. Kris has emailed him twice with no response to date.

b. Shawn Dunphy asked if we'd like to "host" a summer business meeting for the Economic Development Council, at the museum, and give a tour as well. Kris accepted. Collette Spranger will contact us to schedule.

VII. **Membership Committee Report** – Donna reported a membership count of 74 to date. We will table "business" memberships for now, hoping to utilize local businesses for "sponsorships", however we will accept any business memberships that are presented/mailed to us.

VIII. **Old Business** –

a. Driftless Digger: 34 guests and 6 board members attended. Cash donations were \$55. Five families signed up to have Jim dig at their homes later.

b. Ethel Gibbs Backdrop: A 15' x 30' climate controlled unit would be best for storing the piece. Richard Pyper currently storing for EGSI, in a climate controlled storage space, insuring the piece for \$15,000. Kris will ask Greg Helgesen about a larger, possibly climate-controlled unit for EGSI to transition the Ethel Gibbs Backdrop into along with our other property stored at Helgesen Storage.

c. 50 new brochures were printed and distributed to various local businesses.

d. Bill Lathrop is working on a draft update to the website using Weebly, which is currently paid for through 2026. He suggested we not use Weebly and look into WordPress, which was also

recommended by the WI State Historical Society. Bill noted that Paul Lease with Shifting Gears, has the same platform and will allow Bill to “play” on his platform to learn the program. We will look into Weebly’s cancellation terms and try to cancel once the new platform is up and running.

i. Art made a motion to proceed with the new platform, WordPress. Judy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ii. Once the new website is up and running, we will look into getting PayPal connected correctly for customers to link with us directly through the website.

e. Vault clean-up: Judy, Berta, Donna to text availability to Kris for work days at the museum. Donna to email Gaylord Archival to ascertain the shipping dates.

f. Pump Project: Dan and Art will head the project and get pricing shored up with Kyle Allen; obtain anchors for the pump handles; obtain an estimate from the Verona plaque company; and have a budget ready for review by April 1, 2025.

IX. New Business

a. There was discussion regarding changing the museum hours from 1 – 4 pm on Saturdays, June – September. Donna made a motion to change the hours. Kris seconded the motion. Motion carried. Kris to ask Marsha Dobbs and Lorrie Reed about being docents, as both expressed interest when sending in their memberships. Donna, Judy, and Berta gave their shifts to Kris for the upcoming season.

b. In conjunction with “Two Lights for Tomorrow”, which is a nationwide initiative to commence the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America, we discussed putting two lights in the museum windows or lawn overnight from April 18 – 19 and holding a food drive on the 19th for the benefit of the Ecumenical Care Closet food pantry. More discussion is needed to finalize plans.

c. The Clio.com – Kris learned that the library and the old Seminary are currently on The Clio.com. More discussion and planning are needed to add entries to this site.

d. HITP: The board recommends Dan’s presentation on the “Blackhawk War” for this year’s event. Kris will discuss with Dan.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Submitted by Judy Nichols, Secretary

The next board meeting is February 26, 2025 at 5:30 pm – Historic Baker Building