

Evansville Grove Society, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025
Historic Baker Building

Prior to the meeting being called to order, board members Judy Nichols and Donna Hamilton, announced they were resigning from the board effective immediately. They returned Grove Society materials (keys, membership supplies) and then left the building.

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:45pm by Kris Thome
- II. Members present: Dan Stephans, Marcia Kremer, Kris Thome
Absent: Arthur McEvoy
- III. Motion to approve February 26, 2025 minutes was made by Dan. Seconded by Marcia. Motion passed.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** –
 - a. Marcia presented February financial reports. Kris clarified that negative amounts on the monthly report was due to checks being entered and voided in different months.
 - b. Motion to approve February financial reports was made by Dan. Seconded by Kris. Motion passed. Going forward, financial reports will be presented on a quarterly basis. Marcia will continue performing monthly bank account reconciliation and reporting bank balances at monthly meetings. \$900 in rent for Jan-March 2025 was received from ECP.
 - c. Marcia confirmed that the CD was renewed for 13 months at 3.13%.
 - d. 2024 taxes have been filed.
 - e. Kris reported that the Community Foundation of Southern WI (CFSW) annual payment comes from an endowment created by Leonard Prentice Eager in 2018. Grant payments from the fund will be made annually in January.
 - f. Kris reported that the annual payment from the Rock County Historical Society is a grant intended for general purpose use. She also confirmed that the Rock County Heritage Society that the Grove Society once was a part of, no longer exists.
- V. **Correspondence / Donations**
 - a. A solicitation from Power Ad Company to advertise on water bottles associated with Evansville High School was declined.
 - b. Tammy Pomplun wants to donate several scrap books from the Evansville School District. Kris made a motion to accept. Dan seconded. Motion passed. Marcia will notify Tammy and have her sign a deed of gifts.
- VI. **Membership Committee Report** – Deferred
- VII. **Old Business**
 - a. **Ethel Gibbs Backdrop** - Kris has been corresponding with Richard Pyper about bringing the Gibbs backdrop to Evansville. The vault is too small and Kris is looking for local options that are affordable. Dan suggested contacting WHS to see if they have space we can use. Kris will investigate this and will continue looking for other storage options.
 - b. **Vault Clean-Up / Inventory Update** – We are waiting for the remaining shipment of archival boxes to arrive. The vault will continue to be emptied and cataloged with plans to have everything put back by June 7th when the museum opens for the season.

The group discussed managing deed of gift documents and agreed to alphabetize them by donor vs. date of gift.

- c. **Two Lights for Tomorrow** – Kris and Art have purchased two lanterns to hang in the window to commemorate this event. Dan asked that the lanterns only be lit on April 18th and 19th, the actual dates associated with Paul Revere's ride. A press release has been sent to the Evansville Examiner and should be published soon. A notice will be placed in FB by Kris.
- d. **Pump Project Report** – Deferred to April
- e. **Website** – Kris presented a draft support proposal and contract with Black Dog Digital to host the new website and manage the Grove Society's domain. Web hosting will be \$180 / year which includes two service calls. Additional calls will be charged separately. Domain management is \$25 / year. Our current domain with GoDaddy is paid through 2028. After much discussion, Kris made a motion to approve the proposed contract with Black Dog Digital including domain management @ \$205/year. Dan seconded. Motion passed.
- f. **Genealogy Group** – With the departure of Judy Nichols, the board agreed to temporarily suspend genealogy meetings until current projects are completed or new board members can be recruited to help support this activity.
- g. **Clio** – Kris reported that we now have an account with Clio to create entries. As a trial run, Art is working on an entry for the Standpipe. Dan asked to review all entries prior to submission. He also suggested that we include the Ball Tavern on the site.

VIII. **New Business**

- a. **WHS Mini-Grant** – the group agreed to pass on this year's mini-grant.
- b. **Donation Policy Review** – Kris presented the current donation policy for review. A motion to approve the policy with the addition of the statement "The museum does not appraise artifacts" was made by Kris. Seconded by Marcia. Motion passed. The updated policy will be included on the new website.
- c. **Antes Cabin** – Kris contacted Steve Hagen with the Lions Club to see if they would help re-paint the Antes Cabin. His response was positive and he is seeking others to help. Kris requested a budget of \$500 for materials to scrape, prime, re-paint and repair any damage to wood or windows. Kris asked Dan to look at the step into the cabin which appears to be rotting. Motion to approve \$500 for this purpose was made by Kris. Seconded by Marcia. Motion passed.
- d. **Landscaping** –
 - i. Marcia and Kris met with FFA teacher, Karsen Vance, to discuss purchasing plants at a discount and FFA students planting them at the Baker Building. Some plants were chosen while there. Marcia and Kris will finalize their list for the grounds and plants to go in pots. More discussion about students doing the planting is needed. Marcia will look into the cost of a 55-gallon rain barrel.
 - ii. Marcia recommended that we contact Drop Dead Pest Control to spray for ants/pests early in the season to prevent another ant infestation in the cabin and museum. Marcia made a motion to approve this expense. Kris seconded. Motion passed. Marcia will contact DDPC to schedule an appointment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Next meeting: TBD