

Evansville Grove Society, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2025
Historic Baker Building

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:34pm by Kris Thome
- II. Members present: Dan Stephans, Marcia Kremer, Kris Thome, Arthur McEvoy
Guest: Leah Hurlley
- III. Motion to approve March 26, 2025 minutes was made by Dan. Seconded by Art. Motion passed.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** –
 - a. Marcia presented Q1 2025 financial reports. Bank balances as of May 20th are: checking \$3,408.66 -- MM \$8,211.09 -- PayPal account \$100 -- CD \$10,661.42.
 - b. Motion to approve Q1 financial reports was made by Art. Seconded by Dan. Motion passed.
 - c. Reimbursement request in the amount of \$170.24 was submitted by Art for office and exhibit supply expenses.
 - d. Marcia reported that the State Farm Insurance bill in the amount of \$2,005 was paid. The group agreed it would be worthwhile to shop around for another insurance company in 2026.
- V. **Correspondence / Donations**
 - a. **Rock County Historical Society (RCHS)** – we received notice from the RCHS that the Rock County Board is attempting to eliminate funding for the Community Initiatives Policy which provides an annual allocation to RCHS who in turn disburses a portion of those funds to EGS and other historical societies in Rock County. Efforts are underway to prevent this from happening. If the funding is eliminated, we will lose ~\$700 from our annual budget. Kris will provide updates as they occur.
 - b. **Department of Financial Institutions (DFI)** – There was a question whether EGS needed to file an annual report with the State of WI. Dan clarified that because we are under the auspices of the Wisconsin Historical Society, we don't need to file our own report. Kris confirmed that we are in good standing with the State of WI DFI.
- VI. **Membership Committee Report** – Deferred
- VII. **Old Business**
 - a. **Ethel Gibbs Backdrop** – Richard Pyper has offered to continue storing the backdrop until we can find a long-term home that satisfies our climate-controlled storage requirements.
 - b. **ECP Lease Renewal** – The lease with ECP has been automatically renewed. Dan recommended that it be reviewed to determine if a new contract is needed. Art will review the existing lease agreement to determine next steps, if any.
 - c. **Vault Clean-Up / Inventory / Grant Reimbursement / Exhibit Plans** – Vault clean-up and reorganization of the artifacts is ongoing. All storage boxes have been received from Gaylord Archival and the Chamber of Commerce has paid us the \$1k grant. The main exhibit will be business-themed with a second smaller exhibit focused on WWII. The smaller exhibit will depend on the number of artifacts available for display.

- d. **Pump Project Report** – Dan has identified a possible solution to lock the pump handles in place. Kyle Allen provided a hand-written estimate of concrete costs which requires further review. Art obtained estimates for plaques from three vendors; all are similarly priced.
- e. **Website** –
 - i. Black Dog Digital Contract is finalized.
 - ii. The new website is active. Many thanks to Dottie Dykstra and Bill Lathrop who did the bulk of the work to bring it online. Feedback on its layout and functionality is encouraged.
 - iii. On Bill Lathrop’s recommendation, the board voted by email on March 31, 2025 to continue with GoDaddy as our domain provider through 2028.
 - iv. Due to paperwork submission problems and lack of use, PayPal has locked our account. Kris is attempting to resolve the situation. Stripe, another payment vendor, has been activated in PayPal’s place. The cost is 2.9% + .30 per transaction. They do not offer a non-profit discount like PayPal.
- f. **Clio** – Report Deferred.
- g. **Drop Dead Pest Control** – Scheduled for Thursday, May 22nd.
- h. **Antes Cabin Repaint** – On hold pending hail damage review by insurance adjuster.
- i. **Landscaping** – Board members voted electronically on May 15, 2025 to approve \$152 for flowers from Evansville FFA.

VIII. **New Business**

- a. **Hail Damage** – The Baker Building and Antes Cabin sustained exterior damage on April 18th. Dan is coordinating appointments with State Farm adjusters and Total Exteriors.
- b. **Bly Family Visit Follow-Up** – John and Janet Bly and several members of their family paid a visit to the Baker Building to see the ramp and plaque dedicated to Carroll (Shortie) Bly. They were pleased with the quality and tastefulness of the plaque and how well the ramp turned out. They offered to assist with other building improvement projects this year. Kris will send a request to them once bids to refinish the front doors are secured.
- c. **Telephone for EGS** – Kris is requesting a basic cell phone/plan for the Grove Society’s use. The number will be posted on Stripe payment notices and can be used to text members who prefer this mode of contact. Motion to approve made by Art. Seconded by Dan. Motion passed.
- d. **New Meeting Schedule** – meetings are changed to the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm at the Historic Baker Building.
- e. **New Board Members** – A motion to approve Leah Hurtley and Jill Whitmore-Bradley as board members was made by Kris. Seconded by Art. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Next meeting: June 17, 2025 – Historic Baker Building @ 5:30pm