

Evansville Grove Society, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025
5:30pm
Historic Baker Building

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:34pm by Kris Thome
- II. Members present: Marcia Kremer, Kris Thome, Arthur McEvoy, Leah Hurtley, Jill Whitmore-Bradley
Absent: Dan Stephans
- III. Motion to approve August 19, 2025 minutes was made by Art. Seconded by Jill. Motion passed.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** –
Bank account balances as of September 16, 2025 are: Checking \$8,977.04 -- MM \$54,756.80 - - Auto Pay (formerly PayPal) account \$133.38 -- CD \$10,744.46.
Board members are reminded to submit reimbursement requests before the end of work year August 31st.
- V. **Correspondence / Donations**
 - a. **Mary Zimmerman / Cooksville Trust** - Mary with the Cooksville Trust wants to schedule a time for interested board members to visit their history center at the historic Congregational Church. She also invited us to attend a harp/choral performance on October 4th at the church.
 - b. **Donations**
 - i. **Evansville Fire Department** - Leah and Dan could not follow up about the storm siren. Leah will make contact to see if it is still available.
 - ii. **Deborah Cooper & Anita Visser** – Mary Beath's daughter's donation -- an abstract for 107 W. Liberty Street and a copy of Tennyson poems belonging to E.J. Ballard -- was accepted into the collection.
 - iii. **Brian Fick** – Brian has a display cabinet from the Grange Store that he wants to donate. He asks whether EGS would be willing to reimburse him \$175 for the replacement glass top he recently purchased. Motion to accept the display case and approve \$175 payable to Brian was made by Jill. Seconded by Art. Motion passed.
 - iv. **Heidi Carvin** – Heidi is donating the rolltop desk currently occupying space on the ECP side of the building. She states she purchased it from an antique store and estimates its age to be late 1800s. We may keep it or sell it for the benefit of EGS. If sold, she wants to know the sale amount. Leah will research the desk's history and possible sale prices. Different sale strategies were discussed. Motion made by Kris to accept the donation. Seconded by Jill. Motion passed.
- VI. **Membership Committee Report** – Deferred
- VII. **Old Business**
 - a. **Hail Damage** – State Farm paid us \$46,529.06 to replace the roof and damaged fascia on the Baker Building. This is in addition to \$7,275.29 paid earlier for repairs to the Baker Building and Antes Cabin. A deposit of \$2,183 was made to Total Exteriors (TE) in June to confirm the work contract. Funds remaining are \$51,621.35. From discussions with Dan Stephans, it appears to be preferable to repair the fascia where

possible vs. replacing it. Dan and Kris met with Adam from Total Exteriors to review the scope of work needed. The wood fascia on the South side of the building is rotten. While it was not affected by hail damage, Dan and Kris thought it best to have TE replace it with composite board while their crew is on site. Adam estimates the additional cost to be \$700-800. TE will start work on September 17th, including replacing the shingles on the Antes Cabin. We will no longer need to seek community support for this job.

- b. **ECP Lease Renewal** – Work to draft a new lease with ECP is underway. Atty. Clare Nerby strongly recommends that ECP have its own insurance. Since this is not feasible for them financially, Kris made a motion that EGS purchase a policy to be paid from ECP rent payments. Seconded by Leah. Motion passed. Kris will notify the Chamber of Commerce that the Baker Building space is available to rent.
- c. **EGS Telephone** – Not yet completed.
- d. **Historic Home Tour** – Chris Eager was notified that May 16, 2025 is the date of the home tour. Houses confirmed so far belong to Tom Beaver, John & Kim Otto, Wally Shannon, and Maria Jackubowski. Leah will speak to Seth Schultz about his home being on the tour.
- e. **Theodore Robinson Presentation – Badger Talks – October 11, 2025 – PBS Wisconsin** is a go for October 11th. Heidi Carvin will bring her Theodore Robinson prints to the lecture. Neighboring historical societies have been notified. Kris plans to contact the school's art teachers.

VIII. **New Business**

- a. **Annual Meeting – October 23, 2025 @ Creekside Place** – Meeting notice letters will be sent to EGS members via USPS within 30 days of the meeting as required by the by-laws. Award recipients discussed are:
 - Outstanding Volunteer(s) – Bill Lathrop & Dottie Dykstra for overhauling the EGS website.
 - Byron Campbell Award – Chris Eager for his “Conversations with Chris” oral histories.
 - Service Award – Marcia Kremer for her work maintaining the Baker Building grounds
 - Sally Hardy Eager Award for Historic Preservation – possibly Tim Fisher for prior work at Maple Hill Cemetery. Need to ask Dan if work done has to be within the last year to be considered for awards.
 - Ruth Ann Montgomery Award for local History – Jim Richter for the Rex Theatre mural.
 - Nominating Committee – Kris, Art, and Marcia will serve as this year's nominating committee.
- b. The Board approved Ed Larson's request to hold an open house at Grandpa's Farm (Larson Acres) for the benefit of the Grove Society. Kris will contact him to identify a date in November.
- c. Christmas as the Museum - December 6th and/or 7th were identified as possible dates to open the museum for Christmas-related activities that are yet TBD.
- d. July 4th 2026 – Heather Buttchen was suggested as a possible collaborator on the recitation of the Declaration of Independence.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Next meeting: October 21, 2025 @ 5:30pm – Historic Baker Building