

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

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:32pm by Kris Thome
- II. Members present: Dan Stephans, Marcia Kremer, Kris Thome, Arthur McEvoy, Chris Eager (via FaceTime)
Absent: Leah Hurtley, Jill Whitmore-Bradley
- III. Motion to approve October 21, 2025 minutes was made by Dan with the correction removing ventilation repairs from Section VIII.a. – Hail damage. Seconded by Marcia. Motion passed.
- IV. **Treasurer’s Report –**
 - a. Checking Account - \$9,178.97; MM \$54,896.17; Stripe Acct. \$205.60; CD \$10,828.14. State Farm issued us a check in the amount of \$25.25 for remaining depreciation. We are waiting for Total Exteriors to provide their final bill.
- V. **Correspondence / Donations**
 - a. **GoFundMe Non-Profit Alert –** CFSW sent word in late October 2025 that GoFundMe had created accounts for thousands of non-profit corporations. An account was created for the Grove Society. Options included claiming the account or closing it. Kris closed the account because it was not authorized by us nor are there plans to use GoFundMe as a funding source in the near future.
 - b. **Donations–**
 - i. **Tim Magee –** Framed Civil War picture. Chris suggested looking into restoration of this piece. Kris will contact WHS for guidance.
 - ii. **Heidi Carvin –** The roll top desk donated by Heidi Carvin was sold to an Evansville resident for \$250.
 - iii. **Larry & Marsha Dobbs –** “Wisconsin Battle Ship and Two-Step” original sheet music written by Evansville resident J.H. Johnson.
 - iv. **David Blaser –** 1922 Flaming Arrow Yearbook.
- VI. **Membership Committee Report –** Membership as of 12/16/25 is 77. 195 letters were mailed to prospective members who attended an EGS event in 2025 or live in one of the historic districts. Another 80+ letters will be sent before year end.
- VII. **New Business**
 - a. **Cooksville Trust (CT) Collaboration –** CT would like to collaborate with us sometime in 2026 on a TBD program. Marsha will contact Ruth Ann for information on shared Cooksville/Evansville history for possible ideas.
 - b. **Eager Free Public Library (EFPL) Collaboration -** Kris met with EFPL staff to discuss programs to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the US. Two ideas were considered: A lecture related to the American Revolution to be held at the library and a contest to design a coin commemorating the 250th with the winner’s coin minted and distributed. The board supported both ideas. Art will contact Badger Talks to find a speaker and Kris will contact minting companies to get cost estimates.
 - c. **Bucky Badger Watch Party –** The PBS Bucky Badger documentary watch party is scheduled for February 22, 2026 from 1-3pm at the Night Owl. The director and producer of the documentary will attend the party. A few details remain to be sorted out.
 - d. **Grove Society YouTube Channel –** a YouTube channel has been created to house the HITP 2025 recording and any future recordings. The link to the channel can be found on the Grove Society website under “on demand content.” We require written approval from the family of the young girl captured in the video before posting on YouTube. Dan will work with the family to get this done.

- e. **History Advocacy Day** – February 11, 2026 is History Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. Board members are encouraged to register for the event.
- f. **History in the Park 2026** – History of the Maple Hill Cemetery is a potential topic for 2026. Board member Leah Hurtley is a possible presenter. Marcia will contact her to see if she is interested in this opportunity.
- g. **Archival Box Purchase** – Kris is requesting a budget of \$200 to purchase more archival boxes for the museum. Motion to approve made by Art. Seconded by Dan. Motion passed.

VIII. **Old Business**

- a. **Hail Damage** – Glass and glazing repairs were made by City Glass with no additional charges to the original \$600 estimate. Dan reports that the work done by Total Exteriors (TE) is substantially complete with a few punch list items to be addressed when it warms up again. He will contact TE to get a punch list and determine a dollar amount to be held back until they are addressed.
- b. **Ed Larson/Grandpa's Farm Open House De-brief:** 60+ people from around Southern WI attended the open house on November 1st. Donations totaled \$335 with advertising expenses of \$30 for a net profit of \$305.
- c. **ECP Lease Renewal** – Jim Brooks notified Kris that ECP is not moving forward with the new storage lease due to lack of funding. Kris will work with him to remove the remaining ECP belongings and collect back rent in the amount of \$900 for June – December 2025. Shannon Law Office charged us a \$200 flat fee for their work drafting the lease agreement. Motion to pay this invoice was made by Kris. Seconded by Marcia. Motion passed.
- d. **EGS Telephone** – The Grove Society again has a telephone to use for business purposes. The number is 608-490-4638.
- e. **Cabin Repaint** – The east and north sides of cabin repainting project are complete. The south and west sides will be done in the early Spring.
- f. **Historic Home Tour** – Tours of the five homes will be scheduled in early 2026 with letters of commitment signed at that time. Ticket prices were discussed with \$20 and \$25 recommended. Dan suggested contacting Cooksville for their house tour pricing before deciding.
Evansville Community Theatre has expressed interest in performing a TBD show the evening of the house tour. A meeting with them is being planned.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Next meeting: January 20, 2026 @ 5:30pm – Historic Baker Building