

Evansville Grove Society, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2026
5:30pm
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, Leah Hurtley, Chris Eager (via FaceTime) Absent: Jill Whitmore-Bradley
- III. Motion to approve December 16, 2025 minutes was made by Dan. Seconded by Marcia. Motion passed.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report –**
 - a. FY2025 Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Income and Expense were reviewed.
 - b. Dan made a motion to approve the FY25 financial statements as presented. Seconded by Art. Motion passed.
 - c. A motion to renew EGS's Chamber of Commerce membership (booster category) for \$93.71 was made by Kris. Seconded by Leah. Motion passed.
 - d. An audit of the Grove Society's books has not occurred for several years. Kris recommended we have an audit to be sure our accounting practices are appropriate. Motion to have the books audited was made by Art. Seconded by Chris. Motion passed.
- V. **Correspondence / Donations**
 - a. **Donations–**
 - i. **Larry & Marsha Dobbs** – Hardcover copy of "In Monet's Light – Theodore Robinson at Giverny."
- VI. **Membership Committee Report** – Membership as of 1/20/26 is 88. ~275 letters were mailed to prospective members who attended an EGS event in 2025 or live in one of the historic districts. The majority of new memberships were from people who had recently attended Grove Society events.

The Board unanimously agreed to make Ruth Ann Montgomery a lifetime member of the Grove Society.
- VII. **New Business**
 - a. **Corporate Credit Card** – Kris made a motion to obtain a corporate credit card with a limit of \$1k for Grove Society purchases. Seconded by Dan. Motion passed. Officers will be cardholders.
 - b. **Ace Hardware Corporate Account** – Kris also recommended that we consider a corporate account at the local Ace Hardware to take advantage of our tax-exempt status and to avoid reimbursement for purchases made on behalf of the Grove Society. Motion to approve made by Dan. Seconded by Art. Motion passed. Dan suggested a corporate account at Nelson-Young Lumber as well. Motion to approve made by Dan. Seconded by Marcia. Motion passed.
 - c. **Grounds Budget – 2026** – Motion to approve a \$250 budget for flowers and flower pots was made by Kris. Seconded by Art. Motion passed. Marcia will be responsible for coordinating these purchases from the EHS horticulture group.
 - d. **Ethel Gibbs Backdrop** – Plans are underway to store the Ethel Gibbs backdrop in the basement of the Historic Baker Building. Dan is preparing a space to store the backdrop and other items currently at the off-site storage unit.
- VIII. **Old Business**
 - a. **Total Exteriors (TE) Payment** - Dan reviewed the remaining punch list items prior to approving payment to TE. Leah expressed concern that holding \$1k back may not be enough incentive for TE to complete the remaining work. A vote to hold back \$1k was 5-1 with Kris, Art, Dan, Chris, and Marcia in favor and Leah opposed. After further discussion, the board agreed to withhold \$2k from the final payment. Dan will coordinate the final work when weather permits.

- b. Bucky Badger Documentary Watch Party** – Confirmed for February 22nd from 1-3pm at the Night Owl. Kris and Art are covering the cost of Bucky’s appearance at the event. A budget for appetizers was discussed, but no action taken.
- c. ECP** – Jim Brooks notified Kris that ECP has been formally dissolved and will not be able to pay back rent in the amount of \$900. He has removed all ECP materials from the building except the furniture which he offered to the Grove Society to keep or sell. We will keep and dispose of the furniture in the future. Jim states a new group to manage July 4th is forming and he will notify them of the back rent should they be able to pay some or all of it. We can transfer ownership of the Litewire internet account from ECP, which is currently \$49.95/month with no contract. Motion to transfer the account to the Grove Society was made by Dan. Seconded by Marcia. Motion passed.
- d. Eager Free Public Library (EFPL) July 4th Collaboration** - Art is working with Badger Talks to identify a speaker for an American Revolution-themed presentation at the library. Kris has been gathering information on the process and cost to mint commemorative coins for the 250th. So far, it seems large quantities may be cost prohibitive. Kris will continue pursuing vendor quotes for discussion/decision at the February meeting.
- e. History in the Park 2026** – The history of Maple Hill Cemetery (presented by Leah Hurtley) was discussed as a potential topic for HITP 2026. Leah will connect with Ruth Ann Montgomery about a joint presentation. She will notify the board by February 1st if the presentation is a go.
- f. Declaration of Independence – July 4th** – Report deferred to February meeting.
- g. Historic Home Tour 2026** – Tom Beaver’s (former Theodore Robinson) home on Main Street has been removed from the 2026 tour.
 - i. Ad hoc committee** - Kris requested approval of an ad hoc committee to oversee the house tour. Motion to approve made by Dan. Seconded by Marcia. Motion passed.
 - ii. Home Tours** - Kris and Art recently toured John & Kim Otto’s home and Wally Shannon’s (Dr. Evans) office building to plan for the tour. A tour of Pat Carr’s home is scheduled for 1/29 to determine if it will be ready for the tour in May. Another home is needed to replace Tom Beaver’s home.
 - iii. Jim Richter** – once the five homes are identified, Kris will contact Jim Richter to see if he will create a graphic advertising the home tour.
- h. Cabin Repairs** – Dan replaced the cabin threshold in October 2025. We thank him for his efforts to maintain the safety and aesthetic of the buildings.

***Other announcements –**

-The recording of History in the Park 2025 is now available on the Grove Society’s website under “On Demand Content” on the home page.

-PBS Wisconsin will premiere “Theodore Robinson: From Evansville to Giverny and Back Again” on January 29th at 9pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Next meeting: February 17, 2026 @ 5:30pm – Historic Baker Building