

Delaware County Historical Association Board Meeting
Friday October 12, 2018 10:00am

Present: Ginny Sanford, Sheila Ayres, Dick Meyer, Mike Wood, Roy Scrimshaw, Kay Parisi-Hampel, Peggy Kearney, Tim Duerden

Absent: Barbara Coleman, Tom Kendall
Samantha Misa - minutes

Shelia asks to hold an unofficial meeting before the regular meeting starts to discuss finances. She wants better finance reports and would like to see general operations separated from capital expenses. Peggy argues that cash is easier than crude to work with.

Sheila compares 2017 as a full year and estimates 2018 with adjustments made for the Tianaderrah grant. She says the DCHA has more expenses than income, even though the Tianaderrah money should be coming in soon. Sheila mentions that money could be needed in the future for plaster and painting the interior of the Frisbee House and adding a porch, as well as a possible addition to the main building in 2020.

Mike asks if an accountant could provide financial information regarding this, Shelia replies that accountants are only for audits and that the DCHA could benefit from hiring a part-time accountant. Peggy replies that she is against this, and says she is ready to vote against such a proposition.

Sheila says she would like to have monthly meetings on costs that makes the finances more concise. Tim mentions that this is something that could best be left to the pre-existing finance committee. Sheila says continuing on the current path, the organization could go broke, Mike disagrees. Mike says DCHA does not exist to make money, Sheila says money is necessary to continue the mission of preserving history and believes the DCHA is not financially stable.

Mike mentions that DCHA has \$2 million dollars in the endowment fund, the DCHA is fine.

Sheila wants to make a repair schedule for the buildings on site, and praised the recent capital projects fundraiser letter. Sheila thinks we should have another fundraiser, and Peggy argues that DCHA should have multiple fundraisers.

Mike says DCHA has been fine for 74 years without an accountant, and the board and staff can easily look for ways to cut costs without the help of an accountant. Mike mentions that the DCHA has the most money it has ever had, and that Sheila can look into the budget herself.

Peggy voices that she is upset with recent money taken out of the endowment fund. She says she voted to take the money out to be used for capital projects, and is upset that some of the money went into the account for daily expenses. Peggy says she does not like the shortfalls in the budget.

Tim says that this year, DCHA did \$55-60,000 worth of repairs and 1/2 of the expense was covered by grants. Peggy reiterates that she does not like the fact that \$25,000 from the endowment fund went to general operating. Sheila argues that the government is cracking down on non-for-profit organizations and DCHA needs to be more fiscally responsible.

Mike argues that historical associations are unique and cannot be compared to a business. Sheila claims they are, and cites her work with the Fenimore Museum in Cooperstown.

Kay mentions that the Fenimore money is relatively new and has not been reflected in the budget yet. Tim mentions that *Quickbooks* does everything DCHA needs, Sheila argues that an accountant could make suggestions based on the *Quickbooks* data. Tim argues that the board and staff could do that as well. Sheila argues that *Quickbooks* is not well presented and needs to be more organized, and wants an accountant to make things more concise.

Peggy maintains that the DCHA should continue as it always has. Sheila and Peggy think a monthly breakdown would be helpful. Dick argues that DCHA does not do programs to make money. Tim argues that less money does not mean a shortfall, and maintains that this issue is not a financial one, but a matter of how information is presented.

10:45 am – Regular Board Meeting Starts

I. Review of September 2018 minutes

Dick asks if anyone would like to make a comment on the previous minutes. Sheila wants the part about her emails struck from the minutes; Kay would like a date change on a concert in Downsville mentioned. Sheila makes a motion to approve the revised minutes, Kay seconds, motion passed.

II. Committee Reports

Collections - Franklin items. Tim mentions Stalter family items. DCHA is waiting for Bob Gipson to pay, but the items are on site. DCHA has also acquired 4 doors from Bob Wyer's old studio in Delhi, as well as some wedding dresses and photos.

Physical plant - Tim mentions the sink hole is filled. It was pumped by County Tire for \$290 and filled by the county for free. 50% of the \$4,000 for new signs has been paid for.

Frisbee Porch - Sheila and Tim mention they have met with Lee, the architect, who will draw up 2 plans for free for adding a porch to the house. Tim mentions it might be time to start thinking about looking to expand the main building. Peggy makes a motion DCHA should look into getting an architect, perhaps Lee, and hiring someone by the 1st of the year at the latest. Mike asks if DCHA is willing to commit to spend up to \$250,000 for this at this time. Dick is willing to take money out of the Fenimore to cover costs. Peggy would like an architect to make an estimate. Mike has reservations and would first like to see many items de-accessed and have that money used to fund expansion. Peggy puts previous motion out again. Roy asks what we can get rid of from collections.

Kay mentions we should hire someone to help Angela sort through collections. Sheila seconds the motion to look for an architect, and says she will ask Lee to do it pro bono. All in favor except Mike. Peggy asks why. Mike says he does not like the approach unless DCHA is willing to commit to spending the money.

Peggy makes a motion to commit up to \$300,000 to expansion, Roy and Sheila think it is too early for figures.

Fire exhibit - Tim reports on exhibit and event, next exhibit is WWI posters on November 9.

Public Relations - Articles for the fire show appeared in the *Mountain Eagle*, *Reporter*, and *Daily Star*.

Finance – Currently in our General Operating account: \$69,023 after \$50,000 FAM withdrawal

Budget - Everyone receives copy of proposed budget. Roy wants money in the account to cover shortfall from Fenimore. Peggy asks where the shortfall is, Roy replies with income and expense, between salaries and benefits. Mike makes a motion to accept the budget, Ginny seconds, Sheila and Peggy abstain, none opposed, motion passed.

Capital projects drive reported by Tim. Mike reports on Sidney donations. DCHA will get \$300 by Halloween for storing items.

Old Business - Tim reports the bus trip went well, cleared \$1,100. Dick reports the new bus company (Hale) was good, as was the tour of the Herkimer House and the BBQ. Sheila asks about the costs of the new bus company, Tim reports that Hale was cheaper than Oneonta Bus Company.

Auto Run - Tim reports this year saw more cars. Sheila asks if DCHA makes money on this. Tim replies DCHA does not.

Fire Show - Tim reports around 150 people came and DCHA made money from the admissions and bake sale. The show made DCHA around \$200 without costing us anything. Tim and Dick discuss whether “Taste of the Catskills” was beneficial or hurtful to the event.

Merit awards - Tim hands out the nominations received so far. Alice Blackman's nomination is scratched as she has already received an award. Tim reminds the board that nominations can still be accepted until the 19th. He will email the board if we receive any more nominations.

Roy makes a motion to accept the nomination for the family who helped restore the Bovina schoolhouse, all in favor, motion passed. Sheila makes a motion to accept the nomination for Art Pierson, all in favor, motion passed.

The board is unfamiliar with the Springbrook organization and is unsure about their nomination. Peggy wants more information, and Tim reports he will contact them. Roy makes a motion to table the Springbrook nomination, Mike and Ginny second, motion passed.

Annual meeting - Peggy and Dick will bring turkey. Sheila will bring ham and scalloped potatoes. Roy will bring 4-layer delight. Mike will bring cider. Ray will be the speaker.

Mike mentions he would like a political commitment from Senator Seward for \$50 - \$100,000 for expansion of the building, pending election results. Peggy would like to invite politicians to the annual meeting, Mike and Tim argue that DCHA is non-political.

Dick makes a motion to adjourn meeting, Ginny seconds, all in favor, motion passed.

Next Board Meeting: Sunday November 4, 2018 @ 1:00pm