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## Westfield Historical Commission

### Meeting Minutes- January 24, 2022 via Zoom

**Attendees:** Cindy Gaylord (Chairperson), Crystal Hollister, Mike Ingraham, Carly Bannish, Cindy Bronson, Kathi Palmer.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Secretary's report:** A motion was made by Kathi and seconded by Carly to accept the minutes of the December meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** Carly reported that the General Fund has had no change since last month (\$1062.48) and the Historical Gift Fund is now at \$7704.97 due to paying Bruce Cortis for the work he has done inventorying the Old Burying Ground (OBG).

#### **Public Participation:**

1. Nick Aieta brought forward several ideas that he has been working on, related to the Whip Company and National Endowment Grants. More information to come when it is available.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Preservation Award: Ceremony has been scheduled for Tuesday February 22nd at 4pm at City Hall.
2. Slovak Hall: Many members of the Historical Commission visited the Hall and all were impressed with the historic value this private community center has had on the city. In it's past it served not just as a recreational facility (which is its primary function today), but also as a place where hundreds (if not thousands) of Slovak immigrants were able to come learn English, worship, find jobs and housing, and buy groceries. Many artifacts are still housed in the Hall including traditional clothing, countless photographs, and genealogical information. Crystal made a motion to deem the hall to be of historical significance to the City of Westfield, and it was seconded by Carly. Motion passed unanimously. With this designation Slovak Hall is now eligible for CPA funds to make necessary repairs to the structure.
3. Community Outreach: Cindy and Carly have represented the Commission, speaking about the OBG and the One Room Schoolhouse on our local radio station, hosted by Kathi. If anyone else would like to share what the Commission has been working on, they are free to reach out for a time slot.

#### **New Business**

1. Donation: \$2500 is going to be donated from the 350th Committee to the Historical Gift Fund to continue the work done on Virtual Tours. The tours have proven to be quite popular. Several tours (Immigrant and City Hall) have each received approximately 850 views, while the Edwin Smith Museum (at the Athenaeum) has had approximately 2000 views, and the Schoolhouse and Walking Tours have received approximately 3000 views each. New Virtual Tour ideas: cemeteries, whips, industries.

**Next meetings:** February 28, 7pm in person. NOTE: Change in date- City Hall is closed on 2/21 due to President's Day.

**Adjourn:** At 7:38 Carly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Crystal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Crystal Hollister, WHC Commissioner