



Westfield Historical Commission
May 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes



Commission Chair Cindy Gaylord as well as Commissioners Carly Bannish, Cindy Bronson, Michael Ingraham present. Ellen McEwan, Debbie Oppermann absent. Commissioner Gaylord called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Meeting was held through Zoom with assistance from Peter Cowles

Public Participation: Linda Saltus attended through Zoom to discuss the updates on the plans for the Athenaeum. The Boys and Girls entrance will have two phases of repairs and renovations. First will be deleading and second will be repairing rotten wood above the sign. Entrance will also be repainted. There will be no change in the appearance of the entrance.

Secretary's Report:

Commissioner Cindy Gaylord made a motion to accept the January's Secretary's Report. Commissioner Bannish seconded.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Bannish, Treasurer, reported the following balances:
General Fund: \$3,062.50
Historical Gift Account: \$7,068.42

Mail:

No mail.

Unfinished Business:

Historic lectures update:

Should we continue in the Fall? Commissioner Gaylord asked that lectures already planned should continue once public gathering restrictions are lifted. Commissioners in attendance agreed they should.

Ghost tour for the fall vrs other ideas:

Commissioner Gaylord asked if Ghost Tours should continue if any other new ideas. Commissioners in attendance agreed for tours to continue if able to do so under public gathering guidelines. Some suggestions were to have tours with smaller groups or day tours similar to tours with the 5th graders.

Old Burying Ground Update: Tamara will be starting work in the OBG.

Coloring Book Update:

Commissioner Gaylord will reach out to faculty at Westfield Technical Academy regarding coloring book publication. WTA is open to the opportunity to print the coloring book however is on hold until schools reopen.

Lambson Building Update:

Commissioner Gaylord has communicated with the new owners. They have reported that they are hoping to move forward with restorations once state guidelines allow.

Tours for Fall:

Commissioner Gaylord asked about continuing historic tours around the city during the fall. This could include weekends. Commissioner Ingraham suggested adding a historic tour to the high school new teacher orientation city tour.

New Pocket Sites Tour:

The Commission discussed several options for new stops on a Pocket Sites tour. The Commission discussed various immigrant groups to include in the tour, and each Commissioner was assigned 1-3 groups to research on the immigrant experience in Westfield including historic social clubs, churches, etc. Commission will update research once all are in attendance.

New Business:

New Commission members:

Westfield Historic Commission is looking for a new member to fill an open spot. Members are looking for candidates with a willingness to work and a passion in Westfield's history.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: June 15, 2020

submitted by

Cindy Bronson, filling in as Secretary
Westfield Historical Commission