

Akron Historical Society
Sept. 6, 2001 Meeting Notes

The following board members met with carpenter Barry Klave preceding our monthly meeting to view and discuss the destruction process that has started at the Akron Area Museum on the Victorian Porch: Brenda Groon, president; Rodney Anderson, vice-president, Angela Price; Julie Madden and Deanna Boe, lifetime member.

Following our inspection of this process the meeting was called to order by Brenda Groon, president at 7 p.m. Secretary's Report was read by Rodney Anderson in the absence of Christina Lewison with a few small corrections and then approved.

Treasurers report was given by Rodney Anderson in the absence of Denise Loutsch Beitelspacher and approved. It was noted the Akron Farmer's Market Supper fundraiser was a success.

Old Business

Porch Update: Barry Klave was on hand to talk to us about the porch renovation. It has been found that the stringers under the floor are rotten and the cost of renovation exceeds our grant. We decided that we need to finish the renovation and will be meeting with the Akron City Council and the Westfield City Council for financial assistance. We also, will be appealing to the public for assistance. Please feel free to stop by the museum to view the process on the porch.

We are also applying for an extension on the grant, which was approved as we will not be able to get this project completed in time of the deadline. The porch is in a dangerous condition and we are concerned about the safety of our guests.

The destruction process was started by Brenda Groon, Denise Loutsch Beitelspacher, Rodney Anderson, Albert Beeck and Warren Thompson. We are asking others to become involved in the process to save on the labor costs to complete this process.

Resignation: Christina Lewison turned in a letter of resignation as secretary and board member to continue her education. The resignation was accepted and approved and the change of president from Brenda Groon to Rodney Anderson with Brenda becoming secretary was approved. This leaves us currently in need of a Vice President.

Tax Exempt Status: Rodney reported he has not heard any new news on the 501.3(c) tax exempt status for the society. Deanna Boe will check with Matt Trotzig to see what we can do to move this along.

Florence Peterson Grant TV/combos: A 50" and 32" set have been purchased. The 32" set is up and is operational and we are waiting to get the 50" set hung on the wall of the community room. We will be asking the high school students to become involved in making DVDs of Akron history which can be shown on the TVs. It is our hope to get the younger population of Akron involved in the museum and helping with preserving our history. We will be planning programs involving the TVs and local history.

Membership Drive: It was reported by Rodney that the first batch of letters sent on for memberships resulted in about a 38 percent membership return rate. Another batch of letters has been given to Shirley Gerling who is providing the postage for these letters. Deanna Boe said that she will be calling on perspective members to join the museum.

Tree Issues: We have been concerned about the trees along the north boundary of the property. Since our last meeting a tree on the west side of the property lost a large branch. The City of Akron came to our rescue and cleaned up the fallen branch. They also trimmed the concerned branches along the property line. Many thanks goes out to the City of Akron and the fellows that cleaned up these branches.

New Business

Membership Dues: Discussion was held about changing our membership fees from \$25 for single and \$50 for couples. The new membership will be single \$25 and couples for \$40.

Thank You: Deanna Boe will feature museum volunteers in an upcoming "Hats Off To Our Town" newspaper column.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be at 7 p.m., Oct. 3 in the museum's Community Room.

Brenda Groon, Secretary