



# GREENE COUNTY

## h i s t o r i c a l s o c i e t y

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### Greene County Historical Society Board Meeting Minutes

10 June 2019

Harrison Room, Library Center, Springfield, Missouri

4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Attending – Mary Bohlen, Michael Bohlen, Ken Chumbley, Mara Cohen Ioannides, Angie Piercy, Darrin Rodgers, John Schmalzbauer, Erin Smithers

- I. Call to Order: 4:03 pm
- II. Fall meeting planning
  - A. Chumbley reported that Steve Pokin has agreed to be speaker contingent on the time and date. Discussion about holding event on weeknight rather than weekend. Settled on Tuesdays or Thursdays as optimal days.
    1. Chumbley will propose September 24 or 26 at 7:00 PM as potential dates and times for Pokin's presentation on journalism in Greene County.
      - a. Alternative dates will be September 17 or 19, as later dates conflict with other events.
  - B. Chumbley offered use of the fellowship hall at Christ Episcopal Church for the fall event.
    1. Discussion on past attendance to events held at area library meeting spaces.
      - a. Consensus was that attendance has been less ideal.
    2. CEC venue approved as proposed location of fall event.
  - C. Refreshments
    1. Mary Bohlen noted that CEC venue and access to its kitchen significantly minimizes logistical issues with respect to providing refreshments at the event.
      - a. Mary Bohlen will take the lead.
  - D. Publicity
    1. Discussion about making public aware of the fall event.
      - a. Michael Bohlen will take lead on new website and on Facebook.
    2. Schmalzbauer mentioned the use of press releases.
      - a. Discussed past practices and the use of a template by former GCHS secretary Baker.
        - i. Template will be disseminated by Cohen Ioannides.
    3. Smithers suggested that the event might be publicized through the Libraries event calendar, though noted that they require early notification.
    4. Cohen Ioannides noted that area journalism departments at local university's need to be made aware of the event.
    5. Chumbley suggested using the KSMU community calendar.
- III. Future Meeting Planning
  - A. Potential Summer event
    1. Discussion of breaking with recent tradition of scheduling two events per year to help make the GCHS more visible.
      - a. Suggestion of an event at a Springfield Cardinals game has been posed at last board meeting.
        - i. Consensus seemed to be that it is too late in season to pull together.
      - b. Suggestion of a social in August, perhaps coinciding with Route 66 festival
        1. Mary Bohlen suggested Kara DeBacker who is writing a book on history of the Landers Theater as a potential speaker.
  - B. Potential Spring 2020 event.
    1. Discussion about the organization's responsibility to highlight the experiences of diverse communities with Greene County and the Ozarks.



- a. It was noted that past meetings have touched on the African-American and Jewish populations. And that recent developments with respect to the African-American Heritage Trail have demonstrated a growing audience for such stories.
    - b. Schmalzbauer suggesting reaching out for the organizers of Park Day or Juneteenth to be co-sponsors of an event.
      - i. Schmalzbauer will take lead on exploring possible connection.
    - c. Spring Luncheon might include a lecture on African-American history in Greene County and tour of new markers.
      - ii. Potentially publicized through *Unite* and the NAACP.
      - iii. Proposed Lyle Foster or Tim Knapp as possible presenters.
      - iv. Lunch could be catered by an African-American-owned restaurant.
      - v. Consensus of the board was that this is the first choice for the 2020 spring event.
  - C. Rodgers noted that Hispanic history would be celebrated in September if we were to attempt an event before the fall. Mary Bohlen suggested that the Vietnamese were another significant group that has not received enough attention.
    - 1. Schmalzbauer noted the upcoming OPT documentary on Marian Days.
  - D. Smithers suggested the 1953 Cobra Scare as a potential Spring topic as it has prompted significant public interest.
    - 1. Schmalzbauer proposed Drury where a captured cobra is on display as a potential venue.
- IV. Newsletter/Website
  - A. In his new role as secretary, Michael Bohlen will resume the position's customary responsibility for assembling the *Greene County Historical Society Bulletin*.
    - 1. Schmalzbauer will provide Message from the President.
    - 2. Rodgers will provide summary of spring luncheon.
    - 3. Cohen Ioannides will pass along article composed by the GCHS Fellow.
    - 4. Piercy will provide a GCHS financial report for the membership.
  - B. Discussion about the progress of the new website and some of the potential features that could be enacted.
    - 1. Michael Bohlen proposed an "Encyclopedia of Greene County History" to stoke participation by the membership and reinvigorate the mission of the organization.
    - 2. Cohen Ioannides moved to use dormant publication funds to fund the new website for one year.
      - a. Chumbley seconded.
      - b. Motion carried unanimously.
- V. New GCHS Initiatives
  - A. Cohen Ioannides suggested involvement in Missouri History Day.
    - 1. Proposed sponsorship of a prize at the 2020 MO History Day
      - a. Smithers will take lead on contacting organization about sponsoring award.
  - B. Rodgers proposed instituting a plaque program as he is in contact with a potential donor interested in marking a historically significant site.
    - 1. Program could be developed to help fund scholarships/fellowships/grants.
    - 2. Rodgers will check with Bob Dixon about where to procure plaques.
    - 3. A committee of GCHS members would need be organized to vet proposed sites
  - C. Discussion of raising membership fees.
    - 1. Cohen Ioannides expressed in interesting in pursuing revenue streams to fund new programs for local history.
      - a. New scholarships.
      - b. Grants for teachers.
    - 2. Michael Bohlen noted that this would require amending the bylaws.
    - 3. Rodgers suggested that new organization could create tiered membership dues.
  - D. Discussion of using publication funds to publish an edited volume.
    - 1. Michael Bohlen suggested the website, a revitalized *Bulletin*, and the "Encyclopedia of Greene County History" initiative might prove a good first step toward this goal.
- VI. Financial report.
  - A. Piercy reported that checking account held around \$764.35. She did not have the balance in the publications fund or the CFO account available (In subsequent email, Piercy amended the record to report that publications fund has about \$5600).
    - 1. Schmalzbauer noted that he requested that CFO deposited money in general account.

- a. Piercy had not seen the deposit yet (The GCHS secretary later discovered that he was in possession of the check and arranged to get it to the GCHS treasurer for deposit).

VII. Adjourn: 5:30 pm; proposed by Schmalzbauer, seconded by Cohen Ioannides, approved by unanimous consent.

Submitted for review,

MICHAEL WILLIAM BOHLEN  
GCHS SECRETARY