

Friends of the Grange

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Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 02, 2023

Location: Grange Estate, 143 Myrtle Ave., Havertown

Time: 6:30 P.M.

**FRIENDS OF THE GRANGE
BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING
March 2, 2023**

The Board of Managers Meeting was called to order by President Kathy Parkinson, at 6:42 P.M. in the drawing room of the Mansion.

PRESENT: Bill Parkinson, Jim Petrokubi, Cathy DiGirolamo, Scott Selkowitz, Jeanine Rastatter, Chad Brooks, Debbie Cipolla, Rachelle Nocito, Fran McGarrity, Terry Dougherty, Sue Vernon

BY TELECONFERENCE: Bev Rorer

EXCUSED: Joe Rastatter, Bev Coster, Kathy Owsik, Betty Graham

The minutes of the February 2, 2023 meeting were read and Rachelle Nocito motioned to approve the January minutes, and Fran McGarrity second. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Petrokubi reported that we have an operating balance currently at \$110,867.00 and the total balance for the checking account is \$152,747.00. Total net income as of January 2023 was \$1,867.42. The total income for the month of December was \$3,405.00. Total funds for the endowment (Merrill Lynch) are \$327,181.00. There was a \$1250.00 donation made this month to the Grange. It was anonymous. Bill Parkinson motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, Jeanine Rastatter seconded. All were in favor.

Strategic Planning: This was the second meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee. Everyone who attended was tuned in and ready to go. Many new ideas were brought to the meeting. Last month we discussed finances. We looked at the income and expenses, income being great but what we need to look at is what is coming in and through the entire fiscal year and where it is going. The Farmhouse rental is 37%, and 36% combined holiday – together making 75% of our revenue. That is great news but at the same time, we need to remember

that our membership dues do not coincide because of the fiscal year, as it comes in annually, January 1st. It was also suggested to try and combine “open houses” and “ice cream/magic shows” into other broader events, because events such as these, do not bring in much profit, after the initial cost is made. There was talk about using the Grange as a venue, much like the CREC center at Haverford Reserve. We are a private entity, owned by Haverford Township. We are sustained by tax dollars. We would like to try and clone the Crec’s ideas and try and come up with a new application to use the venue that could be done on line and approved within 72 hours. We will need to get fee schedules, so we could possibly move on to be able to rent as a venue.

Grange Events: President, Kathy P. said that moving forward she wants to do all events the right way. We will be changing the way we do it, so it fits more into our By-Laws. It was recommended that each of our sponsored events for 2023 be panned in accordance with the corporation’s major functions as defined under Article II. Events offered need to be planned to maximize available volunteer resources and to generate revenue.

First thing: Children’s Colonial Experience – this will be in place of the Fall Open House, which will include children treats, brief history lesson for the children, along with story-telling and we would incorporate ice cream into this and possibly include attic treasures.

Second: Winterfest 2023 – which will have the colonial, historical theme throughout, with decorations, stories and of course holiday treats. The trains will be here, along with possibly attic treasures and possibly incorporating the magic show.

Third: Grange Historical Lecture Series – the first one will be held on April 28, 2023. 30 people are already signed up, which will be in conjunction with the Haverford Township Adult School. The fee is set at \$10.00 per person.

The “Royal Tea” is scheduled for May 6, 2023. We would like to possibly get a guest speaker from England to join us.

In the Spring of 2024, we would like to have the Formal Gala, which will celebrate the opening of the season and the 50th Anniversary of the Grange. We will need to form a Gala Committee.

Holiday Party: We are considering changing the holiday party. We would like the party to be mainly for the volunteers, and we will hold it during the daytime hours.

Scripts for Future Tour Guides: Terri Dougherty has been kind enough to volunteer in putting together a script for all of our tour guides. It will make it much easier for all tour guides to follow. We will also supply a children's script to follow.

Township Representatives: Rachelle Nocito and Scott Selkowitz met and discussed the porch and painting the veranda. It is agreed that the front of the building has to look "welcoming" so it will bring in visitors. Right now, it is looking a little shabby.

CHAIR REPORTS

Attic Treasures: Jeanine Rastatter said that the Attic Treasure sale will be held on March 25, 2023. Drop off for all items will be held this Sunday, March 5th, between 1-2:30 P.M. in the parking lot. Jeanine will be putting it out on social media. She is asking for vintage home décor, small furniture, costume jewelry, etc. Please do not bring toys, children's and baby items. We are looking for a good turnout. Spread the word.

Book Club – There was 15 people who turned out. It was a good night. Next book club will be held in April, but no date is set. The book will be, "Dictionary of Lost Words".

Bees: Bev Rorer said that she will be getting four new hives in April. New volunteers came in on Saturday, and were quite helpful in getting things up and ready for bee season. They are meeting again on March 18th, so we shall have a good crop of bees come summer. It was noted by Bev, that in 1974, they discovered in the second floor of the Carriage House bee hives, so Bev re-stored the hives and have kept in going. The first honey was in 1976.

Buildings/Gardens/Grounds: Kathy Parkinson said that she is getting estimates on getting the porch painted. Not sure at this time about doing the roof. She is also reaching out to two power washers so we can get the porch done so it will be ready for painting. Terri D. offered to find some plantings for the area, to give it more color. She is also getting estimates for flagstone for the path, along with more estimates for painting, and also reached out to Havertown Capet to get pricing for possibly installing rugs on the steps.

Hospitality: Debbie Cipolla mentioned that she saw Anne Barnett, and that she is doing well, living at Waverly and gives her best to everybody at the Grange. Debbie also extended a big "thank you" to Terri's husband, Doc, for working on so many lights and lamps. It has been a real help.

She also mentioned that if we are considering holding more events, all current fire extinguishers need to be brought up to date. She passed out a list to all Board members with a list of all fire extinguishers that are at the Grange, so in the event of fire, we would know where they are all located. She also is having a walk-around with Jane to see where the water valves are located in case they would need to be turned off.

Membership: Kathy Owsik is not here tonight. She did pass on that she saw Betty Graham and that she is doing well and has been moved to Rehab. She is not able to talk on the phone.

Program/Publicity: Kathy Parkinson has nothing to report.

Shoppe: Bev Coster is not here tonight, but the shop is closed till April.

Trains: Bill Parkinson is working on the trains so all will be ready for the Holiday Season.

Bev Rorer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 P.M., Rachelle N. seconded. All were in favor.

Next Board of Manager's Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2023.

Next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

