



Friends of Saxonia House, Inc.

F.O.S.H. Board Meeting

Feb 6, 2023

6:00 PM, ZOOM Platform

Attending: Alan Pape, Alison Witt-Janssen, Rhonda Hare, Ed Ritger, Jim Dieringer, Fred Klessig, Greg Zahn, Tom Lutz *(Condolences were offered to Greg on the passing of his mother)*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Alan Pape at 6: 08 pm.

II. Approval of minutes

Fred moved to approve the minutes of the Nov. 2, 2022 Board meeting; Alison seconded. Motion carried.

III. Treasurers' Report

Greg summarized the detailed report he sent. [\(link\)](#) There is approximately \$10,600 in the checking and \$2600 in Flipcause. Ed motioned to accept the Treasurer's report and Jim 2nd. Motion carried.

Discussion on Flipcause: costs us \$900/year , but they pay our website fees and online store fees and online membership. Alison mentioned again the need for a website savvy person to help us utilize everything Flipcause offers. Greg explained the online store.

IV. Membership report

Alison sent her report earlier [\(link\)](#), and noted that reminders to renew were sent with Annual Meeting invites. Alan was wondering if reminders are sent during the year as memberships expire. Maybe Flipcause could do this automatically? Rhonda to ask her daughter if she can help us with website. Alison wants to update the site with new highlights and at least one event this year. Are we still interested in Oktoberfest or Plein

Aire? It was decided that an Event committee will be launched by Alison via email to those interested. Alan thinks artist Dan Rizzi would be willing to help..must get press involved. Alison also looking into a local Evanston artist. Rhonda offered to talk to MOWA. Alan feels we will continue to build membership as we pick up steam in our project. Greg says we are covered by insurance for 1-2 events per year.

V. Fund Raising report

Alan reported on progress on establishing a workable program at Saxonía House to be able to present to potential donors. See [linked](#) preliminary concept using Klessig family history and the arts in Europe and America.

Alan stated that we are starting a new phase in our development.

- Phase 1 was the last 5 years during which we looked at 4-5 different purposes for the property. After Tom and Rhonda found the 1848s things, Alan feels we now can present the German history of fine arts
- Phase 2 would be to historical research on the building and plan a program that people will really enjoy...Fundraising is part of this event.
- Phase 3 is selling the concept. Alison reported on the National Trust for historic buildings grant website. Alan happy to have us apply for small grants like this, but we have been denied before by many in Wisconsin. We are part of the National Register but not the National Landmark status. Alan doesn't want us to turn into Housebarn project in which members restore it by themselves. We need way more than that for this building. . Tom thought we should revise our status now that we know more about the history based on Tom's research and Rhonda's findings about the Latin Settlement. Alan also tried to contact the Goethe House in Milwaukee and left a message. We should connect with Milwaukee German organizations and even have a booth at GermanFest.

VI. Restoration Report: Tabled until next meeting

VII. Research Report:

While looking for documented history of Saxonía House at the Washington Co Historical Society, Rhonda found a chapter in "[The Story of Washington County](#)". This book was written by Carl Quickert in 1923 in German and English, published in West Bend WI.

Chapter XIV is entitled “The Latin Settlement” and tells the names of Germans who came to the Farmington Township in 1849. Rhonda will send copies of the pages to the Board via email. This chapter proves that these immigrants were highly educated in the arts.

VIII. Old Business:

- a. Replacement of Jim’s tents. Jim said we could store them at his place. We need 10 foot by 10 foot– really sturdy. Rhonda will look into the kind we use at school.
- b. 2023 calendar of Work Days and events(committee)discussed. Work days are already posted on our website. Ed will be looking into the usability of the septic system for restroom purposes. Maybe solar?
- c. Tom Lutz’s final Reports tabled from November 2: Tom wanted his report to be finished but he needs two more weeks. He feels it will give the Saxonia House tremendous importance. It will be able to be submitted to State and National Hlistorical Sites committees. Ed moved, Jim 2nd that we would continue to table.
- d. Second scale model of Saxonia House tracked down. Nothing there. Misunderstanding, there is only one and it is in FHS room at the Town Hall. We could probably borrow it if we had an exhibit. The event committee should look into having it at Germanfest for sure.
- e. Election of Officers: Ed collected nominations for officers, and the nominees were presented as follows: For President: Alan Pape; Greg motioned to elect Alan by unanimous ballot and Alison 2nd, approved. For Vice President: Fred Klessig; Rhonda moved and Alison 2nd, approved. For Secretary: Rhonda Hare; Fred Klessig moved and Alison 2nd, approved. For Treasurer: Greg Zahn; Alison motioned and Jim 2nd, approved.

IX. New Business:

- a. Nomination to National Landmark status project. Tom Lutz is interested in working on this. We need to get the application form and work with Madison. Alan will contact Madison and have them send requirements to Tom. Revisit and think about this as we go through the process.
- b. Review all Work Day dates and any Special Events for 2023. Would these be on the same dates? Restroom facilities a question. Bd meetings will be: April 3,

July 10.,Sept 11, Nov 6. Work days will be Apr 22, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug 19, Sept 16, Oct 21

- c. More new business: Centerville Notice, news from Greg
- d. Alan will join Cedarburg Arts Museum to make connections
- e. Invite all members to Board meetings? Greg says they are too long, Ed says our Board meetings are not very inspiring. Alison mentioned posting the minutes on our website instead. What would everyone think about approving the minutes online right after a meeting so they could be posted as approved minutes. All agreed that Rhonda will send out the minutes by Friday of the meeting week with a deadline for people to approve they before they go online.

X. Adjournment:

Jim motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm, Ed seconded. Meeting was adjourned.