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Michigan Historical Center

Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Minutes
12 December 2011

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. was convened on Monday, 12 December 2011 at 10:15a in the Michigan Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo, Lansing, by Thomas Truscott, Vice President.

Attendance. Present: Richard S. Johnson, Francis "Bus" Spaniola, Ralph Sims, Louise W. Stilwill, Morris Thomas, Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, Bryon C. Williams. Absent with notice: Roland "Andy" Andersen, Larry Griffin, Keith Harrison. Absent: Jennifer Sochor.

Appearance. Sandra Sageser Clark, Director, Michigan Historical Center.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved as published.

Reports. *Michigan Historical Center* (Clark). The 2011 State Museum exhibit focused on Michigan in the Civil War closes at the end of the year. Plans are in progress for a similar exhibition in 2014 highlighting the end of the war, its aftermath, and the beginning of Reconstruction. An exhibit featuring the Michigan Flag collection will continue throughout the recognition period. Selected flags will be on view during a three-month cycle due to requirements for preservation of these unique items.

The next major event on 28 January recognizes Michigan's admission to the Union on 26 January 1837. The Constitution for the first time may be properly viewed in a professionally designed case. An exhibit commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Girls Scouts of America opens on Saturday, 10 March 2012, 9a-7p. These exhibitions are accompanied by a fresh educational program for young students that includes a Reading Circle for pre-schoolers. Progress continues on the Morris Learning Center scheduled to open in 2012.

Directors are urged to continue to support the Center's program with energy, voice, and money.

Vice President (Truscott). Truscott, member of the Michigan Historical Commission, participated in the December dedication of an official State of Michigan historical marker at Fort Gratiot, recognizing the 40th anniversary of the explosion of the water tunnel



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from Lake Huron to Detroit that killed 22 men. See: Detroit Free Press, December 13, 1971. Contributions may be made to a St.Clair County initiated Tunnel Fund, 516 McMorran Blvd, Port Huron 48060.

The idea of striking a commemorative coin for the Civil War remains alive and under investigation. This is an agenda item for the next meeting. The June 2011 concert on the Capitol lawn featuring the Earl Nelson Singers is on the calendar. The deadline for newsletter copy and illustration was November 12 and material accumulated for preliminary processing is available.

Treasurer (Johnson). A hardcopy financial report shows available checking on 10 December 22011 was \$6,072,64. There were no outstanding bills on hand. No invoice has been received from the Williamston High School administration for the use of McGoff Auditorium. See attached Monthly Financial Report and Statement of Income and Expenses for the year ending June 30, 2011.

Fund Raising (Spaniola). Sources of revenue continue to be investigated. Some interest has been expressed in a Friends sponsored tour of Civil War Historical Sites.

Incomplete Business. None.

New Business. None.

Action: *Motion* (Spaniola) that the minutes of the November meeting be approved as published. Approved unanimously.

Motion (Spaniola) ...that the reports of the Treasurer be accepted. Approved unanimously.

Rough Copy for a newsletter to be processed by the Department of Natural Resources staff was delivered to Sandra Clark.

Discussion. Informal discussion accompanied all topics and action. Included were Way to meet need for direct mail contact with former members and those eligible for renewal. Johnson suggested Ron Springer for the 2012 Veteran Recognition Day. Wiskemann will investigate 21 Hom TV, a public service of Meridian Township, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos 48864, as a possible audio/visual recorder of events sponsored by the Friends. The success of the concert in Williamston prompts early programming for a similar event at a Greater Lansing Region venue. Wiskemann urged that archival quality hard copy and archive gold electronic records created by retiring Secretaries be deposited in the Archives of Michigan.

Adjournment. By the chair. 12:00n.

Next Meeting. TBA.

Respectfully submitted,
Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, Acting Secretary