

At its **Feb. 14, 2022**, meeting, Pana Pioneer Heritage Guild set plans for a February-March membership drive, and redressed a strengthening of rules, among them, uses of Coal Creek Village. Tim DeSherlia, co-chairman, presided, with the announcement that henceforth, meetings would be more concise and less lengthy. The membership drive will run from Feb. 21 until the Mar. 21 meeting. The session was held at the Pana News-Palladium break room. Also present were Gerald Rector, Malinda McClure, Bill Outs and Millie Meyerholz, Paul Meyerholz, and Keith Cearlock and Bert Crowe.

The January minutes were approved with one typographical error correction.

Financial Report

Beginning balance of the general fund at First National Bank was \$613.91 with \$20 dues being the income. Expense was \$100 to open the Boy Scout checking account. Ending balance was \$533.91. The Building fund balance at the beginning of January was \$3,242.40, with income of \$42 from sales of Bob Deere's Pana Landmarks souvenir/coloring books; Pana News-Palladium sells these for PPHG. Expense was for purchases from RP Lumber for materials amounting to \$141.69. Concluding balance, \$3,142.71.

The Boy Scout account (for general store renovation) had \$100 income; Go Fund Me, \$736.76, and other donations, \$3,261.75, total being \$4,098.51. Credit from the bank was \$25.55, the cost of checks for that account.

Officers' Reports

The biggest expense for Morgan's project, the restoration of the general store, will be for the cedar shake shingles, Tim said. Building materials have steadily increased.

The guild has gained five new members during the past month, announced DeSherlia. Names provided are Marilea Sarver Cearlock, Mike Choate, Judy Green, and George Heintz.

Heinz, supervisor of Oconee Township, has indicated he will work with the guild to repair the (half-mile-long) road to Coal Creek Cemetery.

Another potential member, Shawn Moore, a Ramsey blacksmith, will be invited to join the guild. With membership and income increasing, DeSherlia surmised a secretarial /recorder needs to be address, "because some information was missed, not written down.

Millie reported she had sent photos and the story she'd written about the tear down and plans to reconstruct the Pryce house to Michigan descendant Denise Leytola. Mrs. Leytola's response of support was read aloud.

Millie, social secretary as well as secretary, is to write an invitation to Mrs. Leytola and her husband to become members of the Coal Creek Village Restoration Project on Facebook.

Malinda made motion to create a form to apply for refunds at RP Lumber, and include names of who can charge purchases for the guild, with authorized signatures. Second by Gerald; motion carried.

Rules Expansion

Members again discussed an increase of expanded rules for use of buildings and grounds at the village, plus, the heritage garden, when all information is agreed upon. The revised rules and forms will be developed and turned over to Marie Mewes of Pocahontas, a PPHG affiliate, for compilation.

Malinda, Gerald and Tim were to meet the following Monday, Feb. 21, to work on garden issues/rules. Then the consensus was to be posted on the Coal Creek Village Restoration Project site.

Tim stated the guild will pursue change of membership fees. It also was stated highlights of meetings should be placed on our web site and in the newspaper.

Another group met at Spring Garden restaurant recently, Tim said, and decided to create Pana Historical Society. The Pioneer Guild, Pana Historical Museum, Butterfly House along Anderson Prairie, a cemetery walk, Lincoln Prairie Trail, events, and three available walking tours of Pana "will make us more accessible," he concluded.

IRS Response Delayed

The guild reapplied for a new IRS non-profit organization status in mid-January, but has not received confirmation in the mail. Several calls to the provided number resulted in the same message at different times since, relating to "try again later" or the next business day. (Note: The PPHG non-profit status has been ongoing with the Illinois Secretary of State's inception for 40 years. The guild was established November 1981, and the village was founded in 1983.).

Malinda stated that an application for federal tax deductible status requires six points, among them services, goods and their estimated value. An IRS tax deductible form will be provided to those who donate over \$75. The IRS will be provided with information about services, goods, estimate of value, and more.

New Business

A list of donors to the Boy Scout financial account, it was said, still has three or four pledges not received. Thank you cards are to be sent to donors.

A tri-fold brochure with color photos will be developed with a new PPHG logo for correspondence purposes. A person is to be selected to develop the standard logo upon motion by Gerald Rector, second by Keith Cearlock; motion carried.

Keith made motion to approve the logo, with Gerald seconding the motion, and the measure was accepted.

The new flyer will emphasize data to convince prospective members what they will benefit by belonging to the guild.

Keith Cearlock talked about establishing informational kiosks at the village, which would define the history of the village, its buildings and original builders/owners associated with them, and a village map. Kiosk prices are \$1,200 for single sites, \$2,400 double and double-sided, \$3,600. In addition, each building will be prioritized with its own sign and story. Keith said it will take an estimated six months to obtain the kiosks.

Nearly \$10,000 has been raised for the Henry Morgan Boy Scout project for a replacement cedar shake shingle roof, the main cost, and other repairs of the general store.

Members discussed making creating a generic Thank You card, oversize. Upon motion by Malinda, second by Gerald, the card project passed.

Historical Research Capability

As an information matter, the archives availability for past Pana and other area history was explained by Millie Meyerholz, who oversees the "Morgue Files" at Pana News-Palladium. There is a microfilm reader with files going back to October 1865, and many collected stories written since 1951 in file cabinets, plus several Pana city directories from 1917 to 1999-when the last directories were published. She pointed out the fact that the microfilm machine does not have a printer, so people have to bring their own paper and be prepared to write down information.

Movie Man

At the latter part of the meeting, Tim shared with the group that the movie in which he is taking part, "Letters Home" will premiere Memorial Day weekend for the cast and investors. A second showing will be held for others, later that day. It is hoped that the Eisentrouts of Hillsboro, who own eight theaters including Pana's Roseland, will be interested and show the film. A second script is being written.

The meetings were changed permanently to the third Monday of each month due to conflict schedules of some members. The pioneer guild next will meet at 6:30 p.m. Mar. 21, the place to be announced.

The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

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