

Sharpsburg Historical Commission Meeting 05/04/22

Held via Zoom

In attendance: Joseph Bruno (Treasurer), Jocelyn Codner (Clerk), Mary Louise Green, Melanie Linn Gutowski (Chair), Kayla Portis, Leo Rudzki

- Art & History Walk
 - The event is on Saturday June 4th
 - Donna will be handing off images to be scanned by Joe this week
 - The Commission can print 50 for her
 - Donna suggested that for the Clay St. church we make a brochure that can be handed out instead of a full exhibit
 - Jocelyn, Melanie, and Joe will work on the content of the brochure
 - Can include information from the original history book and a blurb about the windows
 - A good article in the Post Gazette when the church first closed before Sharpsburg Family Worship Center bought it that had good history in it
 - How many to print?
 - Kayla and Jocelyn are working on the Mt. Olive exhibit
 - Will figure out what we need for setup
 - We can set up Friday afternoon, specific time still pending
 - Should we create an additional handout for Mt. Olive as well?
 - Will we have copies of the '90s history book for sale at the event?
 - Joe will look into some rush printing, 30-50 copies?, he'll send rates
 - How often do we want to participate in events like this?
 - Continue this discussion moving forward
- Fugh Foundation Grant
 - Gave us an unsolicited and unrestricted grant for \$2,500
 - Joe will deposit in the bank
 - We need to send an acknowledgement letter
 - Melanie will look for previous letters we've sent and pass it along to Joe
- Library oral history project
 - Mary Louise attended one of the community meetings and spoke with Cameron Smith, who is running the project for the library
 - The Cooper Siegel library has the equipment for the project, which will be just audio, no video format
 - Looking for names of Sharpsburg individuals to interview and for photographs
 - The Commission can put together a list of names he can contact
 - How long will these interviews be? Can the Commission get full uncut recordings of videos for our records?
 - Mary Louise will reach out to him to ask a few more questions and be point person
- Cloud storage for images/documents
 - Google Drive looks to be the most convenient option

- Jocelyn recommends upgrading storage to 200GB for \$3/month, this is more than enough for what we need and give us space to grow
- We should move the finished lower res files of Joe's work to Google Drive and create a master spreadsheet to catalog these images so we can quickly search and browse for what we need when people in the community ask us about something
- Melanie suggests Western Digital auto syncing to local storage, which would help us easily maintain a backup drive with seamless auto syncing
- Omeka site update
 - Omeka has many options, Jocelyn went for the free option for now to see how it goes
 - Limited storage and very limited functionality
 - We can upgrade if we want, but cost is something to consider
 - There is a version where we can have full functionality and as much storage as we want if we self-host, will need to pay for hosting and manage the server and instance
 - Set it up with 'Voices of Sharpsburg' as the name
 - Can play around with it using information from Kayla's family's exhibit and see how it goes, will take a while
 - Concerned about people donating materials properly
 - The form needs to be filled out and the fields need to be completely as best as possible so they can be properly added to Omeka
 - This seems to be a barrier, so Jocelyn suggests we only add exhibits to Omeka that we already have the full info for
 - This will not act as a full public-facing archives of our materials, it will be a curated virtual exhibition space where collections and exhibits are carefully crafted and presented
- Member recruitment
 - Spoke with Donna Bishop about the open seat on the Commission, she said Tom Lininger and Connie (last name?) would be interested. Would anyone like to meet with them to discuss?
 - They can send a resume and a letter of interest to gmail account
- Creating a working group to review mission and procedures
 - Invite everyone and whoever can make it can make it
 - We need to define our mission and how we're going to be participating in community events in the future
- 1904-05 Sharpsburg Directory
 - Joe has it scanned in already and about 40 pages cleaned up
 - We will send John Arch a thank you letter/letter of acknowledgement
 - Perhaps this book can be the next project to put on Omeka