

# Historical Society of Dayton Valley GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 16, 2014 – 12:30 p.m.  
Dayton Valley Community Center

## MISSION STATEMENT

To protect, preserve and promote the Historic Dayton Museum as well as Dayton-area history, historic integrity, heritage and culture for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.

## WELCOME

1. Board president called the meeting to order
2. Roll Call
3. Flag Salute
4. Introduction to Board Meeting Procedures: The Board of Directors will conduct Public Comments after discussion of each agenda item, but before the Board of Directors take any action. Audience members wishing to speak regarding issues not on the agenda may do so during Public Comments scheduled at the beginning of the agenda and again at the end of the agenda. Please state your name for the record and you will have up to ten minutes to speak. HSDV Board meetings are recorded. (No action will be taken on a non-agendized item unless it is a time sensitive issue or has a minimal financial impact.)

## REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5. For information: **Challenges and Accomplishments**– Mary Ann Sichak reviewed a list of the challenges and accomplishments during the first six months of 2014. This list was distributed to the membership. Members were asked to notify Mary Ann with any items that may have been inadvertently left off the list.
6. For information: **Looking forward** – Mary Ann reviewed upcoming events and stressed the need for volunteers for these events. Some specific areas of need are gold panning, branding initials in wood discs, photographer, Shutterfly Webmaster, video camera operator.
7. For information: **Resignation of Vice President** Mabel Masterman reported that Barbara Peck had announced her resignation at the July board Meeting. Mabel proposed that with the upcoming elections in November, we would not fill the empty seat for such a short time. Mary Ann stated this was not a decision that had been discussed by the Board and clarified that there were five and a half months still left in the term.
8. For possible action: **Upcoming Bylaws Updates** The bylaws committee will include general members and Board members and will address upcoming Board elections. Mabel reported that the Board decided we will be updating bylaws and it would probably be a one year project, and although committee procedures were not exactly worked out, we had discussed that the committee chair should be a member not a director. She said that the Board would get back to the membership on it. Laura Tennant raised the question that she thought we were going to review the election process as soon as possible. Mabel said that the bylaws have only one thing to say that states how we proceed with elections, but historically we opened nominations in September, closed nominations in October and voted in November and she stated that this is a policy. She added we'll be taking a better look at policies and practices after we get the bylaws looked at and updated. Laura commented that elections were a big mess last year and she feels we at least have to tackle bylaws on elections. General discussion followed regarding past elections. Views expressed:  
prior years actually ran very well; last four year's elections didn't go smoothly; bylaws not problem, it's how you interpret them; address the problem, do not try to treat symptoms; we have a problem based on culture; conservatives v progressives; conservatives feel protective;

culture here has changed and we want to preserve that feeling of culture; just stay out of trouble, give everyone a say; do it as you go; work harder at conveying to other people what that culture is; respect individuals contributions; don't lose culture but succeed with compromise.

9. For information: July 9, 2014 Board of Directors meeting – Mabel gave a brief overview
- We have come a good way to finalizing tax issues. IRS files have been addressed. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tax has offered to do our taxes for us and in exchange we will give them a one year business membership.
  - Dayton History Book Project. Laura got A+ on first deadline. Portion of profits will go to HSDV after expenses as donation. Laura authoring, Jack Folmar doing historic photos, additional assistance from Linda Clements and Mabel.
  - RRWG met with historic architect to share their vision and hear his on-site appraisal and recommendations for going forward.
  - BBQ 3:00 PM August 23 at Stony and Laura's. Bring pot luck side dish. Meat and drinks provided.
10. For possible action: Possibility: replace monthly Board meeting with General Membership Business Meeting to be held on a Wednesday at 12:30 pm and hold a monthly History Night on another Wednesday at 6:00 pm to promote history as our primary function and draw new members This possibility was opened for discussion. Views expressed:
- ~ have Board meetings to sort out complex issues to serve the membership but not make decisions for them; Board should deal with details and bring proposals to membership in distilled form, e.g. this is what we figured out and this is what we want you to decide; the Board is advisory to membership; the Board should consider pros and cons and bring recommendations to membership and be able to answer questions from members because pros and cons have already been discussed; Board should give reasons for recommendations.
  - ~ Discussion regarding when the Board should make decisions and not bring to membership except as information. Views expressed: There will always be gray areas, basically, if there's a question, bring it to membership; As a Board member you should have a pretty good handle on what to bring to the membership and what to decide as a Board. Suggested example: Maintenance issues – Maintenance Chair can approve anything under \$150, unless it's an emergency. Over \$150 needs Board and/or membership approval.
  - ~ Some folks don't want night meetings. Originated to promote history and attract new members. Views expressed: We like and need history presentations but perhaps not every month. Johnye Saylor made an amended motion and Mary Ann seconded to have about six historical lectures per year. Jenny suggested flexibility. Elaine Bergstrom suggested committee be formed to provide a calendar of presentations for the year. Mabel called for verbal vote on the motion and it was unanimously approved.
  - ~ Johnye moved and Tom Parcells seconded to have a daytime Board meeting, and a separate daytime general meeting each month. Mabel called for raise of hands and counted 28 for and 0 against, the motion passing unanimously.
  - ~ There was some concern and criticism of the length of Board meetings. Laura remarked that the Board has a lot of important things we're doing and every board member has opportunity to think and have a say. We're working on condensing the meetings and are doing a much better job.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ PRESENTATION**

Jack Folmar was recognized for his huge work in support of the Historical Society. He became a member in about 2007 and was extremely active, always ready to assist and when the need arose, assumed the responsibility of the historic photograph collection which was a huge, huge task. In recognition of his enormous knowledge and portrayal of the historic figure, Adolph Sutro, and in appreciation of his extraordinary service, on behalf of the HSDV, Mabel presented Jack with a special Adolph Sutro Plaque.

Gretchen Arndt announced she would be conducting a handiwork workshop on “chicken scratch.” Participants would make a pin cushion using this old style of handiwork. It will be at the schoolhouse museum on Saturday, Aug. 16.

### **MEMBER’S COMMENTS**

11. The Board President invited member comments on various concerns interconnected and/or on their minds regarding current happenings within our organization. *(The President respectfully requests members give constructive comments focusing on the “issue” involved and asks possible suggestions for resolution also be presented at the same time.)* No further comments from the members at this time.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS / OPEN DISCUSSION**

The President will invite all members present to ask questions, make comments or suggestions or open a discussion on a topic of their choosing. (No action will be taken on a non-agendized item unless it is a time sensitive issue or has a minimal financial impact.) No further comments from the members at this time.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Laura moved to adjourn and Tom seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2 19 PM

Submitted by Mary Ann Sichak, HSDV Secretary

Approved: August 20, 2014