

HAL Annual Membership Meeting Minutes November 15, 2016, at The Folger Home

Call to order and welcome by President Gerry Vogel at 7:00 PM.

Gerry introduced the board: President Gerry Vogel, Vice President Melissa Clifford, Trustee Tony Tomanek, Trustee KC Zuber, Treasurer Sandi Gerhan, Trustee Kris Burns (excused.)

Nadge Herceg mentioned that archiving for HAL has begun. She will be saving all HAL newsletters. The archived materials will be kept at the Avon Lake Public Library. Stop by at the history room to see the HAL archived materials.

Gerry presented a Year in Review Power Point created by Tony Tomanek.

Among the highlights in 2016:

- Heritage Avon Lake (HAL) was formed, merging the Avon Lake Landmark Preservation Society and the Avon Lake Historical Society
- Monthly “HAL presents” programs presented at the library
- The first joint newsletter, “Our Heritage: Newsletter of Heritage Avon Lake” was published after the merger
- Our Facebook friends grew from 200 – 1000
- Professional marketing brochures about HAL and the Folger Home were completed
- New website for HAL is up and running
- Work on the Folger Home: foundation repairs, parking lot repair, porches replaced, old storage rooms removed. The city of Avon Lake has been a good partner in the work
- Received a \$9000 donation of construction materials from the James Hardie company thanks to Sandie Gerhan’s son. Materials are now waiting at the city service department for our use.
- In spite of ongoing construction and repairs we had our highest yearly rentals of the Henry Ford room – 51!
- Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, the city will take over booking and rental of the Henry Ford room. They will also handle cleaning after rentals. We are hoping for more rentals in the future, and we need to keep the city updated on when we need the room for our own use so there isn’t overlap with an outside rental
- Arranged for HAL membership discounts at Rio Coffee Brewery and Divine Scoops. Tony plans to approach more businesses in 2017 for additional discounts
- Please remember HAL when you make purchases at Amazon.com. Log in at AMAZON Smile and choose HAL as the charity to benefit
- We are looking to grow sponsorships. We currently have 40
- HAL board members attended the 2016 North Coast Business Expo
- Jen Wasserman, head cataloger at ALPL, created a Collections Management Policy for HAL
- Ice cream sales at the Folger Home – thanks to all the volunteers who helped. We had many more volunteers signing up this year
- Celebrated our 3rd year of Partnership with Camp Imagine for ice cream sales. The partnership is working very well
- Participated in the Waterfront Wine Festival with the Folger Home open for attendees. We would like to do the same in 2017 with the Summer Market held at Veterans Memorial Park

- HAL presented “Summer Nights” to thank our membership and provide music for the community, including music by Rich Hawkins in August
- HAL participated in Lake Erie Waterfest with snow cone sales
- Participated in Ohio Open Doors sponsored by the Ohio History Connection and the State of Ohio Historic Preservation Office with “What we wore: Vintage clothing display” at the Folger Home
- HAL hosted “Meet the Author: Sherry Spenzer, Socialites and Scofflaws” at the Folger Home
- Cemetery Tours by Sherry Spenzer at Lake Shore Cemetery in October

Additional remarks by Gerry:

- He would be happy to have more membership involvement. There are lots of ongoing jobs to be done. The board will be happy to get input on other possible volunteer efforts
- Avon Lake Printing has been very generous in covering our printing costs
- HAL Taste of Chili: the Avon Lake United Church of Christ was a good venue for this year’s event
- We have spruced up the shingles in the front of the Folger Home on the turrets
- Gerry would like regular weekly open hours at the Folger Home
- FOX 8 is using our web cam regularly
- Rocking chairs – we have 8 on hand, 2 will be coming. Families and individuals have paid for sponsorships of the chairs. The rockers will be secured to the porch. We will also have side tables. Security cameras will be installed
- Gerry is hoping to grow HAL membership, and provide additional programming
- State grant money – we will get an additional \$75,000 thanks to efforts through Nathan Manning’s office and KC Zuber. Approvals for using the money are almost complete. The funds will be used to replace the HVAC system (\$30,000) and replace aging and worn siding (\$40,000) with Hardy board

Questions posed:

- Are there plans for memorial bricks in the landscaping? Will be discussed in the spring
- Recommended that HAL request plant donations from local gardeners to spruce up the landscaping at the Folger Home
- The city is considering using stamped concrete and adding picnic tables to the grassy area beyond the porch
- Big project: We hope to finish the 2nd floor sometime. So far the cost is estimated at \$43,000 for carpeting, etc. Hope to raise all needed funds in 1 or 2 years.

Gerry recognized outgoing board members with a plaque and kind words – Patty Zilka, Melissa Clifford, and Kris Burns.

- Report from the nominating committee for 2 year terms commencing in January 2017:
- VP Sherry Spenzer
- Treasurer Sandi Gerhan
- Trustee Donna Cracas
- Glendalee Burns moved to approve the slate of officers. Second by George Amolsch. Unanimous approval by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM

Minutes submitted by Lynn Miller, HAL Secretary