

for Linda

Benton County Genealogical Society

Minutes of the Board of Directors

Monday, March 1, 2010

Attending: Margaret Fox, Susan Hayes, Gene Newcomb, Grace Maddux, Sandra Potter (only to read minutes), Bill Gleaves, Earle Greig, Dean Hart, Lee Rudisill

The meeting, held at the Philomath Community Library, was called to order by President Margaret Fox at 3:15 pm.

The minutes of the meetings held on December 28, 2009 and February 1, 2010 were read by Sandra Potter, Secretary Pro-Tem. The minutes of both meetings were approved as amended.

Committee Reports

President: Margaret reported that the family history fair at the LDS Family History Center mentioned in the Newsletter as a Summer Break program item is not correct. She asked Susan to delete this from the upcoming program schedule.

Treasurer: Gene Newcomb presented the Income/Outflow Report for February 2010 along with a Deposit Detail Report. Inflows totaled \$294.00 and outflows were \$152.05 for net inflow of \$141.95. The \$50.00 gift card was presented to Damaris Reynolds in appreciation of her service to BCGS and hosting our board meetings for many years.

Programs: Susan reported that the only date left in 2010 to be scheduled is November 9. She spoke to Bruce McCain, President of Lincoln County Genealogical Society, about the speaker exchange idea. He is interested and will run this by the LCGS Board. Some time ago, LCGS invested in a projector and laptop. This has encouraged members to make presentations on websites that have been helpful in their research. She mentioned that to work BCGS members will need to volunteer to be part of the exchange. Margaret volunteered her NARA presentation.

Library: Grace said that fifteen books were donated though two copies were received of some titles. The donors were the Benton County Historical Society and Museum, Pat Coolican, Maybelle Marsching and Damaris Reynolds. Five lost books have been returned to the library.

Book Purchases: Dean received the file of past book purchases from Damaris Reynolds. She gave him some book publisher catalogs though the publishers are not producing these much any more deferring to their websites. Susan will forward the Genealogical Publishing/Clearwater weekly email of books available to Dean.

Several issues of the Oregon Genealogical Society quarterly have been offered to BCGS. It was decided to accept them.

Newsletter: No report

Hospitality: No report. For the Board meetings in our new location, each person is responsible for bringing their own coffee mug. Grace will provide tea bags.

Public Relations: Margaret recommends that we speak with the church to see if we can change the room for our monthly meetings to their large meeting room. Members find it hard to get up from the sofas so they don't like to sit there. Susan reported that folding chairs are available for our use, but since they are kept in a locked room, they must be requested in advance. Gene will talk to the appropriate person at the church quickly so the change can be announced in the next Newsletter.

Unfinished Business

Non-Profit Status: Following up on the presentation by Mary Dean Snelling on the Oregon Cultural Trust at the last meeting, we discussed the idea of seeking 501(c)(3) status, a requirement to become an OCT-approved organization. Bill mentioned that this subject has come up before and rejected due to the fees and filing costs involved in becoming and maintaining the status for a small society like BCGS. Discussion ensued on the kinds of responsibilities that the society would have (legal, tax, donor relations, etc.) as a 501(c)(3). It was questioned whether this action would be advisable for an organization of our size. Bill will investigate more fully and give us a preliminary report at the next meeting on seeking 501(c)(3) status so we can decide if we want to proceed.

Susan suggested that a line be added to the thank you letters that we send to donors that we are not a 501(c)(3) organization (as are many local area genealogy societies) so donors to not mistakenly assume that we are.

New Business

Benton County Historical Society and Museum – Their research library will now be open on the second Saturday of each month since Mary Gallagher, Research Librarian, has been assigned to that day as part of her regular work schedule. This is nice for us since it is our monthly meeting day. Margaret asked that this news be publicized in our Newsletter though advising members to check first in case there is a change to the BCHSM schedule.

Back-ups – Margaret expressed a concern that we have no back-up for Teri Greene in the production of the Newsletter. Gene and Dean will meet with her to come up with a plan, particularly to get a copy of the template that she uses.

BCGS Property – Historical records, business records, equipment

Margaret noted that many of the records of the society are kept at people's homes and voiced a need for rules and/or policies to guide officers, committee members and volunteers on what to do with the records. She cited the example of the South Benton County Pioneer Database and the Pioneer Database as historical records. These records

have been gathered and maintained by society members and former members. The business records include Board minutes and records maintained by the officers in the course of their duties and the handover (or not) of these records to successors. Margaret stated that she recently learned that the society's photocopier was removed from the Annex (aka library) and taken to a member volunteer's home without any approval to do so.

It was suggested that we embark on an inventory of all society records and property. Grace will place a sign in the Annex that no physical property can be removed from the premises except books, etc. permitted to be checked out from the library. Library volunteers will be informed of this so they can enforce it.

April Speaker on Civil War in Oregon – The speaker, who will come dressed in a Civil War uniform, has asked to bring a 1861 rifle as an accompaniment to his uniform. Susan wants to know if there are any objections to this in order to grant/deny his request. Bill said there have been other speakers who have brought swords and other armaments. It was agreed that the speaker could bring the rifle.

Speaker Reimbursement/Compensation and Program Budget – Susan asked for clarification on the budget for speakers. She had been told by Dave Kribs that speakers could be compensated up to \$100 each, but was later informed by Gene Newcomb that there was no budget for speakers.

Bill Gleaves clarified that up to \$100 could be paid to speakers, but that this cost item was never funded in the budget. The intent was to do this sparingly to attract special speakers. It was never the intent to pay each speaker \$100.

Susan voiced the opinion that it was unfair to ask speakers to come a distance without reimbursement for mileage and handouts. The other board members agreed that we should offer to reimburse speakers for mileage who come from outside the Corvallis/Philomath area. As for handouts, we have low-cost photocopying services through a company in Salem so speakers can submit handouts in advance and, therefore, not incur photocopying expenses.

2010 Budget – Gene passed out a copy of the Budget for the year beginning September 1, 2009. Discussion began, but there was not enough time to conclude so this topic will be moved to Unfinished Business at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan C. Hayes

Susan Hayes
Secretary, Pro-Tem