

Evanston History Center
Minutes of Annual Meeting
June 14, 2017

The 120th annual meeting of the Evanston History Center was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Eston Gross, president, with a quorum present.

Eston welcomed the members after what he said was a remarkable year that had rejuvenated EHC and seen a series of firsts for the History Center as well as strong board involvement.

Reporting on the capital campaign, Eston said the first and second phases had raised \$2.6 million, and EHC still needs to raise \$1.6-1.8 million. He said Trustee Emeritus Bob Barr would be working on raising funds for the third phase of the conservation project. Final plans, including a landscape master plan, were completed by the Facilities committee under Bill Brown.

Eston noted that one major achievement of the year was the recently completed restatement of the Strategic Vision for the next three years.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2016, annual meeting, which were unanimously approved.

Eden Juron Pearlman gave the director's report, saying EHC is trying to find partnerships to help fund renovations being done through the Capital Campaign. Among the work to be done will be masonry repairs, window reglazing and repairs to stairs and entry ways. Engraved bricks for the new brick walk can be purchased at the original price through the end of June, before installation begins.

She pointed out that EHC had tried several new activities over the year, including an exhibit curated outside EHC (the Underground Railroad Photo exhibit) with related programming and new exhibition partnerships with the Evanston Art Center, Shorefront Legacy Center and Lombard's history center. She also cited EHC's new travel/tour group, Evanston On-the-Go; the publication of EHC's first scholarly biography and a reissued war journal (both Charles Gates Dawes), and the first modern-day EHC gala, last August.

Eden thanked Eston for his service as president of the board and presented him with a gift.

She noted that financially, EHC had a very good year, and will close near its projected budget.

In the absence of Governance committee chairman Judy Koehler, Eston presented the names of Sharon Ephraim and Blanca Lule for election to new terms on the board of directors. Both served previously. He also presented the names of Dave Downen, Jack Hinz, Sally Lynch, John Mancini and Janet Reed for reelection to second terms. The motion was moved and seconded. All candidates were unanimously elected. Four trustees— Cliff Barber, Bill Brown, Dave Grumman and Bob Johnson, along with Eston- will step down from the board this year.

Janet Reed briefed members on the recently adopted Strategic Vision for 2019. She said it outlines goals for collecting, preserving and exhibiting Evanston history, including contemporary history, in modern, accessible formats. She said it also addresses maintenance and renovation to the building structure through the final capital drive; envisions a strong, more diverse membership base and exhibit and program partnerships with other organizations; projects new events and programming, such as On-The-Go, for new, recurring revenue streams; and includes a new planned-giving program.

Janet Messmer, EHC costume curator, spoke about the current “Finishing Touch” accessories exhibit, which opened in April and will be updated in August and run through December. She told members she created the exhibit, which includes items from the mid-19th century to present day, because accessories are interesting in themselves, since accessory choices are one way people present themselves to the world, and so say a lot about them. She called on men in the audience to consider making donations of accessories they had worn throughout their lives. She thanked staff for their help, and also thanked Rachel Jennens, a volunteer in the costume collection since 1995, for her generous contribution of time.

Eston noted this was his last meeting as president of the board, and offered “deep, heartfelt thanks.”

Rick Hubbard commented that the June pop-up lecture by Spencer Jourdain on his book, The Dream Dancers, was great. Jenny Thompson, EHC director of education, said the pop-up workshop on self-publishing that she held June was so popular that we had to cap admission.

Janet Reed thanked Eston on behalf of the board for his remarkable service to EHC.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Neiman Reed