

Minutes of the 125th Annual Meeting of the Evanston History Center Wednesday, June 29th, 2022

EHC Board President, Sharon Ephraim, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of the board of trustees. Sharon told the membership that this might actually be the 124th meeting of the membership, but that the staff would sort this out before next June. She noted that this year will be the conclusion of her term on the board and her term as President and shared what an honor it has been to serve in this role. She thanked the staff and board for working so hard toward the betterment of EHC, and she is looking forward to working with the new board members.

There are important changes coming to the History Center, including a re-brand, new logo and a new website. Key board figures who have steered these projects are, Geoff Bonn, Elizabeth Randgaard and Mike Sullivan. The website is going to be very contemporary and also mobile friendly. Sharon reminded everyone of the importance of collecting contemporary history and in honor of the “Suits Me” exhibit she donated an ETHS Girl’s Soccer road to state t-shirt and praised the team for their accomplishments and their historic achievements and noted she was the proud mom of the goalie. She hopes our new branding and website drive the community to us to discover more about Evanston.

Sharon then called for a vote to approve last year’s annual meeting minutes. There was a motion to approve (Kim Hiltwein) and seconded (Elizabeth Middleton) and the motion carried.

Next Geoff Bonn, EHC Treasurer gave his report. Geoff reported that EHC operates on approximately a \$450,000 annual budget. The staff, he said does an excellent job maximizing revenue and minimizing expenses. EHC was fortunate to receive federal funds from the Payroll Protection Program and the Employee Retention Tax Credit. These funds were used to pay operating expenses, including payroll. The generosity of the community also helped. Many board members volunteered their time, to support the staff, such as past board Treasurer Max Grebenchikov, who stepped in and did a lot of the bookkeeping and tax preparation work.

Geoff noted that the strength of our finances is largely due to our endowment. The finance committee made some very good strategic moves that paid off. Our investment managers recommended that we invest for the short term in real assets, and this helped us offset some of the market volatility. While the markets are down 20% on average EHC is only down 11%, due to the advice and oversight of our investment managers at Bernstein.

Geoff thanked the board, staff, and membership for their support.

Janet Neiman Reed, said she was elated to present such a qualified slate for the board.

Two candidates are being elected to a 2nd two-year term, Mike Sullivan, who will serve again as Secretary and Elizabeth Randgaard who will serve as Vice President of Marketing. A. Louis Allred, Morris Fisher, Consuela (Connie) Gillock, and Mark McGarvie are being elected to their first two-year term. Janet asked for a motion to approve the slate of trustees, Eston Gross, made the motion and Jenifer McCartney seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Janet congratulated all the trustees, Next Janet told the membership that we have one office to fill, and nominated, Jenifer McCartney as Vice President of Membership. Kim Hiltwein moved, and Elizabeth Middleton seconded this motion which carried unanimously. Finally, Janet, thanked our outgoing board members, Josh Aldort, Kathleen Buffington, Mike Ford, Kim Hiltwein and Roger Price for their service.

Next, Executive Director, Eden Juron Pearlman, gave a report, she noted that in December she celebrated 25 years at the history center. She shared stories about the ups and downs of the 25 years – mostly ups! She also thanked the EHC staff and called each out separately and congratulated them on their tenures ranging from 16 years to 8. A remarkable record. Eden also spoke of upcoming plans and excitement over the new logo, website, and partnerships. She thanked Sharon and the board for their support and introduced Keynote Speaker, Rachel Jennens, EHC Costume Curator to discuss the “Suits Me” Exhibit.

Rachel gave a presentation discussing the evolution of suits and what makes a suit. Rachel fielded questions from the membership about suits and the costume collection in general and then invited all in attendance to view the exhibit.

Sharon asked if there was any new business, and as there was none, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Eden Juron Pearlman
EHC member and Executive Director