

BARKER CIVIC CENTER COMMISSION

April 27, 2006

Call to Order

The April meeting of the Barker Civic Center Commission was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by President Mary Lou Linnen. Other members present were Greta LaFountain, Fred Miller, Kirk Rogers, Tom McCormick, and Mary Brockway. Jim Dworkin was absent. Kirk Rogers was welcomed to the Commission. Center Director Cecilia Zubler was also present.

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting (December 1, 2005)

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as written.

Financial Report

Cecilia reviewed the expenses paid by the city which included a new garage door opener, a programmable thermostat, and deadbolts for the basement windows. The basement railing was repaired. Cecilia contacted C.A. Ross, a representative from Guardsman Furniture Polish, and arranged to have the interior wood – paneling and ceilings – cleaned. Sentinel Alarm was paid for police and fire alarm systems. The old hemlock tree in front of the Mansion was trimmed, and a winter box was built for the Griffin Bench. Tuckpointing was completed on the back part of the old house. Advertising was purchased in several area publications. Utilities were paid and office supplies were purchased.

Director's Report

Applications were signed for the Marquette Tea, an Elaine Hornyak flute recital, a Paradise Valley Garden Club tour and meeting, and a reception for the Michigan City Education Foundation. The Mansion is participating in the Mainstreet Association's Treasure Hunt. Listings in the Family Life Feature and the Indiana Getaway Guide were displayed. The Mansion is listed in the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau pamphlet, in St. Anthony's newsletter, and was recently featured on WNIT, South Bend's PBS station. The Mansion will be included on a large map of Indiana attractions. Cecilia has attended several Michigan City Information and Idea meetings, and a citywide pandemic meeting. She also spoke at a recent LaPorte County Historical Society meeting. Our rack cards are being distributed by the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau in displays along the I – 80/90 corridor and in several county locations. The Visitors Bureau sent two bus tours to the Mansion.

In the Barker Mansion First Quarter Census Report, January saw 393 visitors on guided tours, and 123 people attended other events for a total of 516. In January of 2005, there were 171 tours and 156 attended other events, totaling 327. In February of 2006, there were 134 guided tours and 169 visitors attended other events, totaling 303. In February of 2005, 306 people toured and 132 attended other events, totaling 438. March brought 170 guests for guided tours and 158 people attended other events for a total of 328. March of 2005 saw 300 people take guided tours, and 362 attending other events, totaling 562. Guided tours in the first quarter totaled 697, and 450 visitors attended other events. The number of visitors for the Christmas season of December 2005 and January 2006 was 3,045. Mailings have been sent to all Michigan City, Chesterton, and LaPorte public and parochial schools for spring field trips. Eleven schools are booked for April and fifteen for May.

The following groups toured or attended other events during the first quarter of 2006: Michigan City National Honor Society, Monday Musicale (3), Sigma Alpha Iota (3), Cub Scout Den, Joy School (4), South Haven Elementary School (4), Madison Center, Red Hat groups (2), CISV (2), Tri-Kappa (3), WNIT Television Station, Critchfield Elementary School Brownies, Cook's Corner Elementary School (2), Nativity Elementary School, St. Stanislaus Elementary School, Boy Scouts, Success Through Education, St. Paul's Elementary School – Valparaiso, St. Paul's

Elementary School – Michigan City (2), and St. Paul's Elementary School – Stevensville, Michigan.

Building and Grounds

The gardener has begun her work.

The aluminum storm doors in the library have been replaced with the restored wood and glass doors, which were found in the basement. The effect of the matching patterns is very pleasing.

Old Business

The By-law changes were approved by the Commission, and the Mission Statement was re-affirmed. *Section 3, Article B, Annual Meeting of the Board*, under *Board of Directors* was changed to read: "An annual meeting of the Board shall be held in each year in December or as the Board may designate." *Article F, Regular Meeting of the Board*, was changed to read, "Regular meetings of the board of directors shall be held not less frequently than four times a year at such time and place as the board of directors shall from time to time determine."

New Business

The summer display will be titled "Brides, Bouquets, and Boutonnieres". Tea plans are progressing. The teas will be held on June 25, 28, and 30th. Truffles Bakery will loan the Mansion a wedding cake display. Flowers With Jazz will make silk bouquets for the bridal gowns that are to be displayed. The entertainment will feature "Sentimental Journey", a trio of area singers presenting 1940s Hit Parade songs.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2006, at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brockway, Secretary