

CITY OF BURTON
PUBLIC ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2012, 6:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Danny Wells at 6:20 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wells, Heffner, and Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: L. Young, Clerk's Office.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Discussion regarding establishing a Burton Historical Society.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Wells said he didn't want to get a lot of people involved right away because this is a tremendous undertaking. It would take lots of people to keep it going. He spoke to a gentleman at the State of Michigan who offered advice. He went over the "Operating an Historical Society" handout. He stated there must be three sub-committees who handle events, people, and sites and buildings. There will be an easy flow of information once the sub-committees are formed. Schools and churches would be willing to allow meetings to be held at their buildings.

Mr. Smith asked who would be responsible for paying for the corporation.

Mr. Wells said people will give money or it can be run through the City to start.

Mr. Smith asked if any clubs have expressed interest in getting involved.

Mr. Wells replied that lots of people have said they want to get involved.

Mr. Smith asked who pays for the building for the museum in Davison.

Mr. Craig replied the taxpayers fund the building.

Mr. Smith said the Flint Journal archives would be a good resource for pictures and information.

Mr. Heffner said it would be worth the one-time fee to get pictures.

Mr. Wells said community businesses have lots of pictures.

Mr. Heffner said they should reach out to the first City Council and the first Fire Department.

Mr. Wells said they could go back to the Township days or the City days.

PUBLIC ACCESS COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 24, 2012 / 6:00 P.M.

PAGE 2

Mr. Heffner said the blue schoolhouse on the corner of Maple Rd. and Center Rd. would be a good location for a museum.

Mr. Wells said a constitution and bylaws should be put together. It is very important to keep the politics out of it so that one group is not represented more than another. He said they should elect seasoned trustees as well as new blood. He said they must register with the State of Michigan Bureau of Labor and Economic Growth to protect the legal status of the Historical Society.

Mr. Smith said they need someone to drive the Historical Society.

Mr. Heffner said the Friends of the Library group could be key to this endeavor.

Mr. Wells said a Historical Society makes the City more marketable.

Mr. Heffner stated they should get the seniors involved.

Mr. Wells said they could see if they could get an Attorney to donate time to look over the 501C status. He said it is imperative to do fundraising at historical sites and develop a mission statement to better understand their motive.

Mr. Heffner said the library by the Senior Center would be a good place to start.

Mr. Wells said other jurisdictions have Board members that consist of teachers, professors, pastors and historians. He said it is important to accommodate all groups and stay open to new ideas. The Historical Society could do a tour of the City.

Mr. Heffner said there are many homes around the City that are very old. The Historical Society could come up with their own plaque they could award to the owners of the homes.

Mr. Wells said planning is very important and should be done a year in advance. A program brochure is helpful as well.

Mr. Heffner said Ramona Miron knows all the history on Atherton School.

Mr. Wells said they need personal contacts at all the newspapers.

Mr. Heffner said they would welcome anyone with knowledge.

Mr. Wells said it is important to follow up with the Rotary, Kiwanis and other local service groups. He said they should get a speaker to contact other groups.

Mr. Smith said there should be a link on the website. Residents could be able to take a virtual tour of the Historical Society. Information would have to be scanned and categorized.

PUBLIC ACCESS COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 24, 2012 / 6:00 P.M.

PAGE 3

Mr. Heffner said they should use stories from the different groups.

Mr. Smith said they could set up a screen and ask the public to share their stories while being video-recorded.

Mr. Heffner said the information from the Census would be valuable. He asked if there were a room available in City Hall they could use to store things.

Mr. Wells said they could start a local award program.

Mr. Heffner said the first step is having Council pass a resolution to establish a Historical Society. He said different areas have a different history and it is important that all are represented. He said they would have to appoint people to a board. They could get Attorney Austin to draw up the resolution before the meeting. He added that each department of the City should submit things for the Historical Society.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: None.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

A Public Access Meeting was set for Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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