

CHESTERFIELD HISTORIC & LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 12, 2022

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Steve Domahidy, Jane Durrell, Erin Compton, Mike Kane, Jack Avery, George Chrissos and Ann Chrissos

VISTOR: Cindy Somogye (volunteer at the museum)

Erin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER: Ann motioned and Jane seconded to pass the November minutes as written. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane presented the following report – balance as of December 31, 2021 was \$10,061.51; income was \$135 donations, \$1,725 from calendar ads, \$35 from book sales. Expenditures from November 1 to December 31, 2021 were \$700.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: A. George reported that \$4,825 has been collected for calendar ads and \$1,150 still needs to be collected.

B. Ann reported that she and George interviewed Jen Wells and her parents, Richard & Anita Motz. The information collected will be presented in two Citizen articles and the pictures will be sent to Anne Lewis for possible inclusion in the 2023 calendar.

C. Mike talked with Kari Johnson, from Parks & Recreation, Director of Senior Events, about the new senior center at Chesterfield Mall. He reported that Mike Staenberg will be speaking at the liberator/holocaust program on April 7. Mark Leach and Sharon Berry will talk about their books and will do book signings. Mark Leach coauthored a book about her father, Ben Fainer. Mike also reported that the city has received \$165,000 from the federal American Rescue Plan Act to be spent over three years and \$20,000 from St. Luke's Hospital for senior services to be spent over two years.

CHESTERFIELD'S WWII HEROES: A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR, NAZI CAMP LIBERATOR, AND P.O.W. IN GERMANY Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 7:00 PM, the Heritage Foundation of Chesterfield will host an event celebrating the lives of three local citizens, each with a unique first-hand experience of WWII. ➤ Ben Fainer, Holocaust Survivor: Ben was a Chesterfield business owner who spent six years in Nazi camps, from age 9 to 15. He was liberated by U.S. forces on a final death-march in the waning hours of

the war. After 60 years of silence, he met and became best friends with one of his liberators! ➤ David Lupo, U.S. Army Liberator of Dachau: David was a Chesterfield resident who fought his way across France and Germany. In the spring of 1945, he began to hear something called “concentration camps” being mentioned in Signal Corps communications. It wasn’t until he found himself opening the gates of Dachau that he understood what those messages were talking about. ➤ Frank Huelskoetter, U.S. Army P.O.W. in Germany: Frank was a Chesterfield resident who fought his way across France and Germany, before his unit was surrounded and taken prisoners. They were lined up in a field and the Germans set up machine guns pointed at them. Frank assumed he was going to be killed, as this took place near Malmady, where Americans were massacred in similar fashion. A ceremony will be held at the Chesterfield Senior Services Center at Chesterfield Mall, followed by a book signing and open house and at the Chesterfield History Museum. Both are located on the upper level adjacent to Macy’s. Speakers will include Michael Staenberg (friend of Ben Fainer), Sharon Berry (Ben Fainer’s daughter), and Mark Leach (co-author with Ben Fainer of Silent for Sixty Years: Ben Fainer Holocaust Survivor and editor of Why We Fought: Nazi Camp Liberators of St. Louis. Immediately following the ceremony, the Museum will be open, and attendees may tour it at their leisure and watch a slide show, Chesterfield’s WWII CH Heroes, shown on a continuous 10-minute loop. Sharon Berry and Mark Leach will be available to sign book and answer questions.

D. Jane suggested updating CHLPC and museum literature to hand out at the senior center.

E. Erin thanked Cindy for caring for plants at the museum. She also would like to have a paragraph in every Citizen about CHLPE members and museum volunteers.

F. Comments on Lynne’s list about calendar distributions has been tabled until later this year.

G. Lynne called in to the meeting to suggest that she send a letter to each councilmember about recruiting new members for CHLPC. The suggestion was approved. She proposed that the city recognize Subdivisions that are 50 years old or older. She would also like residents of 50 years or longer to share the changes they have seen and their other experiences as Chesterfield residents. She asked for sources to research Chesterfield’s past and Erin said newspapers tended to only report crimes.

h. Ann asked for help and ideas for the City Hall’s display cases. Lynne suggested a display of past Citizen’s of the Year and Cindy proposed a display of local athletes.

Erin announced that the next meeting will be March 9.

Steve motioned and Jane seconded to adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The motion passed.