

Dane County Historical Society meeting: June 15, 2026
Drumlin Room, 5201 Fen Oak Drive, Madison, WI

Present: Nino Amato, Rachel Bergh, John Decker, Mike Flaherty, Barbara Furstenberg, Jane Licht, Angela Richardson. Guest: John Stremikis. Rick Bernstein, Executive Director.

John Decker called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM.

Minutes.

- Mike Flaherty moved to approve March 2026 meeting minutes, Jane Licht seconded. Minutes were found to be incorrectly dated. Mike put forth an addendum to change the date to 23 March 2026, Nino Amato seconded. With that, **the motion to approve March 2026 meeting minutes passed.**
- **Approval of the May meeting was postponed.**

President's Report.

- Location of tablets. Jane has been referred to a member of County Executive Melissa Agard's staff, but has not heard from them lately. **She will contact the staff member to verify that the building designer has been informed of the availability of the tablets. She will also send a letter offering the tablets, with details.**

- John gave a speech at the Madison Elks Lodge in which he described the tablets project, explaining that the final location has yet to be determined.
- Archives Committee. **Angela Richardson volunteered to join the committee. Rick will send a copy of the current archives policy to the board members.**
- John reported on the status of the resolution to place a marker honoring Wisconsin soldiers at Antietam and Manassas. The resolution has been presented to the U. S. House of Representatives. Senator Tammy Baldwin has signed on as a sponsor of a Senate bill. There is an effort to add Senator Ron Johnson as a sponsor. **A signed copy of the DCHS will be submitted as support.**

Financial Report

- Rachel Bergh is honored to assume this position. She has received access to the Summit Credit Union accounts and is in the process of getting access to the Baird account. **She plans to develop a Treasurer's Report that reflects both the Summit and Baird accounts.**
- Rachel reported that DCHS received memberships in May, many of which are the direct result of Rick's presentations on the Unjust Deeds exhibition. The board congratulated Rick on this project.
- Rachel explained the May Summit checking account transactions. The ending balance was \$4,314.93.

There is no change in the Summit savings account. The Baird account is accumulating interest.

- **Nino Amato moved to approve acquisition of a Quickbooks accounting system. Barbara Furstenberg seconded the motion, which was approved.**
- John is concerned about the cash flow. He wants a budget on a monthly basis to ensure there is enough cash on hand for regular expenditures.
- **Jane moved to place the report on file. Mike Flaherty seconded the motion, which passed.**

Archival Report

- Barbara reported on the accession and/or cataloguing of a family history of the J. And H. Sholts family; a Madison Central High School clock; the Civil War tablets; two photos of M. Lee O'Brien; and several pamphlets relating to Dane County Parks.
- Barbara has sent a letter to Richard Jones, Executive Director of the Vera Court Neighborhood Center, inviting them to establish a collection in our archives.
- David Driscoll, retired Curator of Business and Technology for the Wisconsin Historical Society, spent an afternoon reviewing our collections and advising Barbara on the cataloguing of photographs. She is hopeful that he will become an advisor to the Archives Committee

Executive Director's Report

- The contract with Dane County is in process.
- **Rick asked the board for updates to the board roster for reporting purposes to the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions.**
- The Token Creek marker was cleaned by the Friends of the Token Creek Conservancy.
- The American Association State and Local History membership has been renewed. This provides a reduction in our Past Perfect membership, so it pays for itself.
- Rick made a presentation on the Unjust Deeds exhibition at the Sun Prairie Library. Although the attendance was only 15, several memberships resulted.
- Rick visited a group in Waunakee to advise a group that wants to organize a historical organization. They have not decided whether they want to be a museum, archives, or library. There appears to be good support.

Jane pointed out that the board had moved to accept John Stremikis and Arlan Kay as board members. However, she requested that the minutes reflect that they are not joining at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

The next meeting will take place on July 20 in the Drumlin Room, 5201 Fen Oak Drive, at 1:00 PM.