

**MINUTES OF THE PARK RIDGE HERITAGE COMMITTEE** meeting held on Tuesday April 11, 2017 at 3:45 p.m. at the Park Ridge City Hall:

Members present: Milton E. Nelson (presiding), Otto M. Kohler, Richard DuSold, Paul Adlaf, Patricia Adlaf, Warren Wade. Plus, our guest today was Rebecca Little.

The Minutes of the February 14 meeting of the Heritage Committee were discussed and approved by motion and second. The Minutes had earlier been mailed to all members by Mrs. Adlaf. It was noted for the record that there was no March meeting, which was cancelled due to bad weather.

Mr. Nelson reported on his book-signing event at the Norwood Park Historical Society on February 22, where he also gave his power point presentation on Park Ridge history.

Mr. Nelson also reported that the Heritage Committee has repaid, with thanks, the loan of \$4000 from the Park Ridge Historical Society which they offered us last fall to enable us to publish our *Milestones of History* book. Mrs. Adlaf gave Mr. Nelson a reimbursement check for expenses he incurred last fall in the completion of the publishing process.

Mrs. Patricia Adlaf notes that to increase sales of our book, local realtors have been contacted, the Chamber of Commerce has been contacted, the Park Ridge Community Bank displays a color cover of our book, as does the Park Ridge Library.

Mr. Nelson distributed some copies of old pamphlets and handouts on Park Ridge history.

Mr. Otto Kohler in February proposed a motion that the Park Ridge Heritage Committee officially designated the remaining, empty granite plaque in Hodges Park to be dedicated to honor the achievements of Hillary Rodham Clinton of Park Ridge, noting her 2016 candidacy for President of the U.S.A. This item, by motion, was restored to the agenda for consideration.

Mr. Kohler has been in recent conversation with John Gast of Des Plaines, the company which installed the original memorial plaques in Hodges Park in 2007. Gast still has the records of our original 2007 project. They estimate a sum of just under \$1000 would be needed to design and engrave the remaining, empty plaque. The Gast Company would come to Hodges Park with their tools to do the new engraving.

Mr. Nelson distributed copies of three handouts:

- A draft proposal for wording of the 2016 Hillary Rodham Clinton plaque.
- A news article by Jennifer Johnson in the Park Ridge Herald Advocate of February 23, 2017.
- A letter to the editor by Rebecca Little published on March 9, 2017.

Mrs. Rebecca Little was present today as our guest. She expressed the belief that there is substantial community support for recognition of Mrs. Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. We explained to her, in response to her letter, the reason for delaying a decision is due to our lack of funds to implement such a project. Our bank account is low due to the expenses of publishing our *Milestones of History* book. We could not undertake the Hodges Park project at this time. Mrs. Little's letter to the editor had urged speed in creating the monument to Mrs. Clinton. Mrs. Little also noted in her letter that "only two" existing memorial to women were included at the fountain. Mr. Nelson points out that at least 23 stories of Park Ridge women were in fact included in the *Milestones of History* book.

Mr. DuSold made the suggestion that we delete the word "Democratic" from Mrs. Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign.

Mr. Otto Kohler proposed a formal resolution:

Resolved, that the remaining, empty plaque on the Camp Fire Girls Fountain of Hodges Park be dedicated in recognition to the 2016 presidential campaign of Hillary Rodham Clinton, noting also her other considerable governmental accomplishments for the U.S.A., while noting her formative years growing up in Park Ridge, Illinois.

This motion was approved unanimously.

However, at this point it is not resolved on the exact wording of the plaque, and also the major issue of how this project is to be financed. Mr. Kohler suggests we go outside the Committee to secure funds from the community. Mr. Adlaf, however, feels we should only use Heritage Committee funds, when available, for this project. The timing for completion of the project would also depend on the issue of financing.

Mr. DuSold announces that the Park Ridge Library Book Sale will be held May 5-6-7.

Mr. Adlaf passes along a Park Ridge history story he recently became aware of, from Mr. Jim McLennan at the recent Night of Stars. When South Park Church in Park Ridge was beginning to get organized in the 1940's, the Rev. Billy Graham was a frequent speaker at their services in the formative days of South Park Church.

Mr. Adlaf also tells us that the Solomon Cottage renovations are proceeding well, and should be completed this year. He says the Park Ridge Historical Society has a 25 year lease with the Park Ridge Park District to operate a museum in the Solomon Cottage in Prospect Park.

At 5:05 a motion to adjourn was approved. Our next meeting will be held on May 9, 2017.

Submitted by,

*Milton E. Nelson*