

Will County Heritage Alliance Minutes

October 20, 2007

**Isle a la Cache Museum
501 E. Romeo Rd. (135th Street)
Romeoville, IL 60446**

- Mark Batson, *New Lenox Area Historical Society, Will County Historic Preservation Commission*
- Dee DeGroh, *Braidwood Historical Society*
- Marty Hohisel, *Joliet Historic Preservation Commission*
- Harry Klinkhamer, *Forest Preserve District of Will County*
- John Lamb, *Lockport Heritage and Architecture Commission, Will County Historic Preservation Commission*
- Linda Konley, *Midewin Heritage Association*
- Bill Molony, *Blackhawk Chapter, National Railway Historical Society*
- Amy Munro, *Will County Land Use Department*
- John Persic, *Will/Grundy Genealogy Society*
- Lorin Schab, *Midewin Heritage Association*
- Lynne Smaczny, *Will County Historical Society*
- Gretchen Sullivan, *Will County Historic Preservation Commission*
- Sandy Vasko, *Will County Historical Society, Wilmington Public Library District, Will County Historic Preservation Commission*

1. Networking Opportunity/Tour Museum – 9:00 a.m.

Harry Klinkhamer conducted a tour of the newly renovated Isle a la Cache Museum.

2. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting came to order at 10:15. Smaczny welcomed members.

3. Election of Heritage Alliance Council Members

The following nominees were elected to the Council by members.

- *Council Chair:* Harry Klinkhamer, Forest Preserve District of Will County
- *Education Coordinator:* Lynne Smaczny, Will County Historical Society
- *Meeting Coordinators:* Bill Molony and Dee DeGroh
- *Program Coordinators:* Sandy Vasko and Gretchen Sullivan
- *Publicity Coordinator:* Amy Munro, Will County Land Use Dept.

The Council will meet in early winter to discuss coordination efforts.

4. Partnership Roundtable Discussion

Lynne Smaczny provided details on a recent Smithsonian Exhibit and grant titled "Between Fences." A competitive application process, the traveling exhibit will be showcased by the Will County Historical Society Museum in between June 13, 2009 – July 26, 2009. Smaczny and Sandy Vasko provided details as to what the exhibit project entails and potential partnership opportunities. As part of the exhibit display criteria, the Society is interested in enlisting the assistance of agencies across the County to develop a thematic countywide exhibit that would coincide with the Society's Exhibit display. The Countywide effort could occur prior to and during the actual physical display of the exhibit. Through the grant, money is available to assist local efforts. Smaczny solicited comments and Alliance members discussed various ideas including a photography competition which would focus upon fences throughout the County, a calendar, and workshops.

Smaczny also distributed information and asked for assistance on the Will County Historical Society's upcoming exhibit, "Will County Origins." The exhibit will focus on the history of Will County townships up to 1878. Specifically, the Will County Historical Society is interested in obtaining artifacts and township historical narratives. Members suggested several resources including the County rural structures survey reports and contacts at other heritage organizations to see about collaborating.

Smaczny and Vasko updated members on recent plans with the Forest Preserve District of Will County to relocate the majority of Pioneer Settlement buildings. The remaining buildings will be reconstructed at the future site. A location is still under discussion.

Dee DeGroh asked questions regarding the Braidwood Depot. The depot was donated to the City of Braidwood; however, funding assistance is needed for the building's maintenance. DeGroh also shared about the historical society's need of resources and contacts to assist with their organizational challenges.

Marty Hohisel from the Joliet Historic Preservation Commission inquired about funding for historic landmark signage.

5. Projects

a. Past Perfect 2008

Smaczny and DeGroh will work on organizing this event.

b. County Heritage Organization Brochure

Vasko and Amy Munro will work on the brochure. Funding for the brochure would be provided through each organization's paying a small amount for listing and printing costs.

6. Announcements

a. Heritage Events Around Will County

Members shared their organizations' upcoming events.

b. Next Heritage Alliance Meeting – Saturday, January 19, 2008

Munro offered to contact Lisa DiChiera at Landmarks IL to discuss historic preservation strategies. The meeting coordinators will work on securing the January meeting location. Members agreed that the meeting should be held in eastern Will County.

Munro will e-mail Heritage Alliance contact list to members.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.