

Brunswick History Commission: Board Meeting Minutes, March 27, 2025

Attending: Dr. Wayne Allgaier (Chair), Mr. Peter Wenner (Secretary), Ms. Jackie Ebersole (Board Member), Mr. Bruce Funk (Board Member), Mr. John Faith (Board Member), Mr. Tim Wilson (Board Member), Mr. John Caves (City Council Liaison)

Absent: Mr. David McIntosh (Board Member)

Meeting was called to order in the Train Station at 7pm by Dr. Allgaier. The minutes from the December 18, 2024 quarterly board meeting had been approved unanimously by email and submitted to Carrie Myers on January 10, 2025.

1. Review of general budget for FY2025:
 - Overall approved budget by the city is \$1,000.
 - Current balance is \$126.80.
2. FY 2026 Budget:
 - A request for \$4,500 has been submitted to the city to cover:
 - i. \$1,260 for internet.
 - ii. \$375 for Web hosting.
 - iii. \$2,000 for permanent portable historical display.
 - iv. \$500 for shelving in the room next door.
 - v. \$365 for miscellaneous office supplies.
3. Elizabeth Frye legacy account:
 - Balance is \$17,934.73
 - Ideas for future use of funds are:
 - i. Ms. Ebersole moved that the funds help pay for the portable display, if the city budget won't cover, Mr. Funk seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Cost TBD.
 - ii. Five additional historical signs for \$8,115 (\$1,623/sign).
4. Distinguished Citizens recognition, 2025:
 - 2025 honorees are Frances Axline, Kathy Barnes, James Castle, Kathy Crone, Jerry Knight, Bruce Funk, Mary McDonald (deceased), Bill Turney (deceased), Rick Weldon, Bob and Jennifer Effler
 - Seven honorees/family have responded to the mail notifications of their honor.
 - The banquet is scheduled for September 14, 2025 at the Eagles Club lodge.
 - Once again, the banquet will be open to the public at \$20/ticket. This will be advertised in the August and September issues of the Brunswick News-Journal and amplified via social media (History Commission and Smoketown History Facebook pages
 - Completed bios on all 10 honorees are due by July 1, 2025
 - Dr. Allgaier suggested making lapel pins for honorees to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the program in 2026, budget permitting.
5. Preservation of our newspapers:
 - Digitization of *The Brunswick Citizen*:
 - Since there are incomplete sets at both the MSA and C. Burr Arts Library, we will hold off on seeking a grant for digitization pending Dr. Allgaier's efforts to convince the Enoch Pratt Library to obtain a full set from the above two organizations.
 - The board will inventory the collection we have to determine what missing issues we'll need to find.
 - The Maryland State Archives (MSA) has offered to microfilm the entire archive, although it may take a few years to complete. If we want to purchase copies of

the microfilm, it will cost \$85 per microfilm reel. If we were to move forward with this, the challenge would be in finding a microfilm reader.

- An incomplete set of *Blade-Times* issues from 1927-1971 are online at <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=cl&cl=CL1&sp=TBT> and available on microfilm at the Balch Library in Leesburg.
- *Brunswick Herald* issues (now in public domain) may be put online by the MSA.

6. Public outreach:

- Spring Fest (May 31): We are committed to the event. Messrs. Wilson and McIntosh are working to assemble the exhibit with a focus on Brunswick baseball history.
- Railroad Days (October): The board agreed to participate once again.
- Veterans Day parade (November): Decision to participate has been tabled for now.
- Hometown Holidays (December): Decision to participate has been tabled for now.
- Website:
 - Dr. Allgaier continues to post sports news and obituary stories from the Frederick News-Post on the site.
 - Mr. Wenner regularly updates Smoketown History posts on the page.
- Facebook page: Mr. Caves will help Mr. Faith get up and running as page administrator.
- Posters in kiosks: Rotating displays will continue with agreement from the board.
- Brunswick News-Journal articles: Mr. Wenner is developing a two-part series on Brunswick baseball history. Part I on adult baseball will be published in the April issue. Part II on youth ball will run in May.

7. Weekly meetings/ history discussions:

- Timeline portable display:
 - Imagination Center offered 4 options that the board is considering.
 - It may take several weeks or possibly months for all historical dates to be confirmed before we authorize the vendor to start production.

8. Grant to improve train station: Status of improvements

- Bids to work on the train station improvements were incomplete and will have to be resubmitted before work can begin.

Next quarterly meeting: Thursday evening, June 26, 2025 at 7 pm.