

GRAND LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COMMUNITY PRESENTATION and ANNUAL MEETING
GRAND LAKE COMMUNITY HOUSE
July 12, 2023 7:00 PM

Members Present: Melody Anders, Steve Batty, Jim and Elin Capps, Paul and Susan Carlson, Jim Cervenka, Dave and Corinne Lively, Lou and Robert Lybrand, Doug and Scarlet Ohde, Don and Linda Ray, Frank Reardon, Layla Schnacke, Bob Scott, Patti Stahl

An additional 15 non-members were present for the presentation only.

President Jim Cervenka welcomed the attendees, apologizing for technical difficulties that caused a late start. He introduced Board Members, those who are Docents/Tour Guides at either museum, or Committee Members. He explained that our all-volunteer organization needs more people to help in various projects, particularly as museum volunteers.

He reported that, as of this date, concrete has been poured to begin foundation construction at, and exterior restoration of the Eslick Store, thanks in large part to a generous State Historical Fund grant and many other donors. He further explained that the Eslick Store, which was once intended as a visitor check-in and small mercantile, will become the place where you are welcomed, you sign-in, perhaps buy a small Grand Lake/early automobile trinket, and get some information about the Cottage Court Museum and our community. The Eslick Store will also have a public restroom.

Jim noted that our town does not have a local historical preservation process. He then introduced Melody Anders, who with Lucy Fitch has created the GLAHS Historic Recognition program. This program strives to recognize places, people and organizations that reflect efforts to protect, preserve and promote the historic character of the Grand Lake area. Five Recognition Award plaques were awarded this year. This year's Preservation awardee is the Grand Lake Hardware Store, noted for its new-build Rocky Mountain Rustic architecture; Alan Funk accepted the plaque for the store's owner. Historic site recognition plaques were awarded to The Lariat, with owner Dustin Barnes accepting, the Grand Lake Community House, with Mayor Steve Kudron accepting, Bob Scott's Authentic Indian Jewelry, Bob Scott accepting, and the Mine Design building, owner Dorothy Reimer unable to attend.

We are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lake Area Historical Society. Jim introduced Annabel De Alessi who, as a volunteer "intern" with the GLAHS, has produced a PowerPoint about the founding of the Grand Lake Area Historical Society in 1973, and a brief review of its history to-date. Each GLAHS milestone was presented together with what was happening in Grand Lake and the nation at that time.

President Cervenka discussed the progress of the Eslick Store exterior restoration: building raised, foundation dug, footers installed, stem wall poured, utilities stubbed in, sewer installation planned, building soon to be placed on its permanent foundation. Windows and doors were earlier removed and are being restored in a Denver restoration facility, screens will be added. With continued donor support, we will begin working on the interior of the building in Fall. The plan is to "funnel" visitors to the Eslick Store to receive Cottage Court information, a Grand Lake history overview, and our community's response to early automobile tourism. The Eslick Store will have a public restroom, and a tour guide

station. We intend to have the Store open for the Summer 2024 season. Also planned is the Cottage Court History Park including a park-like setting like the Cottage Court always had, a grassy expanse just south of the Eslick Store with a pavilion, fire pit, games and picnic area, and more.

Jim added, “We are proud of what we’ve done for 50 years with support from a lot of people and a lot of entities. We’re excited looking into the next five or fifteen years. What do we need to be aware of? What do you want to see happen in your town, our town?”

Jim asked audience members to share on post-it notes their ideas, hopes and concerns for what the Historical Society should address in their future planning in the brief intermission before the Members’ Annual Meeting. What issues should be addressed? What threats does our community face? What should we be doing with your help?

The Annual Meeting began at 8:25 pm. Layla Schnacke moved, Alan Walker seconded, all agreed to accept the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting. Jim asked that those attending read the President’s Report attached to the Annual Report. The main thing that is happening is that the Eslick Store restoration has begun much earlier than expected, and much more has been accomplished since then.

Jim explained that Lucy Fitch was our Nominating Chair; the three Board members whose terms expire this year are Melody Anders, Frank Reardon, Patti Stahl and Elin Capps. Lucy reports that all four have agreed to another term. Alan moved, Layla seconded; these nominees to the Board of Directors were elected by acclamation.

Board Member, Docent Chairman Frank Reardon reported on plans for the upcoming Volunteers Appreciation Event, scheduled for July 27th, beginning at 5:30 pm at the Kauffman House. Jim Cervenka agreed to handle drinks for the evening. Jim noted that the Stars at the Barn fundraiser, scheduled for July 14th, has a few tickets left.

Alan Walker spoke about the Grand Lake Creative District, which recently applied for recertification. He mentioned that the District sponsors a weekly Sky-Hi News ad providing publicity for local events, and encouraged folks to send events information. Board member Melody Anders has been appointed to represent the GLAHS with the Creatives. We decided not to be involved with the “pie eating” event during Buffalo BBQ festivities.

Melody reported that progress is being made to design a new Kauffman House Gallery exhibit, primarily celebrating the purchase of the Kauffman House in 1974.

Lois Sauer encouraged people to come to see the gardens at the Kauffman House.

Jim again thanked the attendees.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm