The 122nd annual meeting of the Evanston History Center was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Sharon Ephraim, president, with a quorum of more than 30 members present.

Sharon gave an overview of programs and events scheduled for the next year, including Prohibition and Women’s Suffrage exhibits. She thanked board and staff members, and reported expenses were in line with the fiscal year’s $450,000 budget. EHC’s Endowment investments totaled about $2.2 million at fiscal year-end. Emphasis in the coming year will be on raising funds for the capital campaign, which was offered a matching grant from the Tawani Foundation.

A motion to accept the minutes of the 121st annual meeting as previously submitted was seconded and unanimously approved.

A motion was made to approve Daniel Antman and Tosha Wilson as new trustees to serve two-year terms; President Sharon Ephraim and Treasurer Max Grebenschikov to serve additional two-year terms as trustees; and David Downen, Judy Koehler, Sally Lynch and Janet Neiman Reed to serve additional two-year terms as trustees. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Sharon thanked outgoing trustees John Mancini, Lynn Russell and Wynne Shawver for their service.

Executive Director Eden Juron Pearlman reported the completion of much-needed renovation of the Coach House and the back stairs of the Dawes House. Major improvements are planned over the coming year to the front porch and front door, for which EHC received a state grant. Eden cited accomplishments of the past year including the initiation of the brick Legacy walk at the front of the house and the continued success of the Evanston On-the-Go tour program. She said EHC would commemorate the 100th anniversary of Prohibition and Evanston’s unique relationship to the movement in the current Dry Evanston exhibit and in the national Spirited exhibit later in the summer, as well as at EHC’s fourth annual summer party in August.

Eden introduced EHC Education Director Dr. Jenny Thompson, who spoke briefly about her book, The Takeover, recently published by Evanston History Center Press, about the 1968 student takeover of the Northwestern University bursar’s office and black-student activism on campus. Jenny interviewed Jack Hinz, VP of Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Northwestern in the 1960’s, and now an EHC trustee, three times for the book. She said the protest had ended peacefully because of Jack, who had “maintained his cool, compassion and foresight” during the takeover. She offered him the first copy of the book, which he accepted.

Lori Osborne, EHC’s Director of the Evanston Women’s History Project, then presented a talk about the history and legacy of Prohibition in Evanston, from before the 1855 amendment to the NU charter making it illegal to sell, produce or distill liquor within four miles of the university; through the rise of the Temperance Alliance to stop the arrival of the Saloon and the overlapping efforts of the women’s temperance and suffrage movements and the Women’s Christian
Temperance Union; to the issuance of the first Evanston liquor license to The Spot pizzeria in 1972. Lori noted that questions surrounding Prohibition and its repeal are highly relevant to current issues surrounding the legalization of cannabis.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Neiman Reed
Secretary