HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2023

I. Call to Order

Mr. Dehn called to order the regular meeting of the LPCA HPC at 3:07 PM on February 26, 2023 via video conference.

II. Roll Call

The following committee members were present:
- Joe Dehn (Chair)
- Kat McElroy (Secretary) (joined at 3:10 PM)
- Graham Brown
- Pat Nicholson
- Reinita Susman

Vacancies: None

Guests: None

III. Agenda

The following agenda was adopted:

A. *Approve minutes of previous meeting*

B. *Review of state convention display and related activities*

C. *Year-end wrap-up*

1. Report for EC meeting

2. Are there any "loose ends" we should finish/document?

3. Applications for next term

D. *Archiving Facebook group(s)*

IV. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Ms. McElroy previously emailed the minutes from the January 22, 2023 meeting. Mr. Dehn submitted corrections.

The minutes were approved as amended.

V.   Review of state convention display and related activities

A.   *Discussion of table (Mr. Dehn and Mr. Nicholson)*

B.   *Discussion of contacts*

    1.   Sara Foster (extensive conversation with Mr. Nicholson)

    2.   Rodney Austin still looking for newsletters (reported by Ms. McElroy)

    3.   Sign donated from Kelly Carden

C.   *Mr. Dehn took photos and videos, and updated LPedia*

    1.   Including recording of EC meeting

D.   *Bio page QR code – prepared by Ms. McElroy and discussed with about 12 people by Mr. Nicholson, but no responses*

    1.   Next time make it a poster display if we have more room

VI.   Year-end wrap-up

A.   *Report for EC meeting*

    1.   Mr. Dehn will write, but requests input

B.   *Are there any "loose ends" we should finish/document?*

    1.   Compile any partially finished items:

        a)   *Interviews*

            (1)   Eric Garris is scheduled, so that will need to be shared

        b)   *Newsletters (ie, share the Google Doc)*

C.   *Applications for next term*

VII.   Archiving Facebook group(s)

A.   *Figuring out this one means that we can do the others*

B.   *Mr. Brown's research (see email attached to end of minutes)*

    1.   Mr. Dehn: No expectation of privacy

    2.   Mr. Dehn: Get more and trim later

    3.   Mr. Dehn: Do the scripts actually work? Might be able to get a trial offer.

    4.   TO DO:

        a)   *Get the Facebook group text download via the admin account (bare minimum) – Ms. McElroy will pursue*

        b)   *Identify paid scripts, create a burner Facebook account, and use that for access – Mr. Brown will research options and report back*

c)   Manually download – how to decide?

> *(1)   Ms. McElroy will download videos*

d)   Crowd-sourcing approach: contact membership, eg, "If you want your posts saved" (with instructions) and submit them

VIII. Set date of our next meeting

March 12, 2023 at 3:00 PM

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Dehn adjourned the meeting at 4:12 PM

Minutes Submitted by: Kat McElroy

Minutes Approved on: March 19, 2023

Given the decision to remove the Party Business page. I have been considering some ideas about what parts of it should/could be exported and what the most effective way to export it would be.

I'm presenting the information below since I spent some time looking into and considering this problem. I would have nothing but relief if someone had already found a clear path to solve this problem that I did not yet consider. I have also started to consider that perhaps I am overthinking the problem and there are only a few things that the rest of you feel are worth saving anyway.

First I'll say that I am not a Facebook expert and it may be worth consulting with others (HPC people or otherwise) that might have expertise in social media or coding. There is maybe some, but not much overlap between this and between what I have explored previously with saving current newsletters.

The most viable method in my opinion is to use a third party utility, my concerns about this are that some of them seem sketchy and some of them cost money.

Details for my analysis:

Scope:
I understand that the page goes back several years. Information on the group is stored in the following mediums.

- Posts: A post can contain *string information and media information*. There are likely thousands of posts.
- Comments: A comment can contain *string information and media information*. Comments are nested in posts or nested in another comment (It seems to me that Facebook only nests the comments twice, but I could be mistaken). Likely tens of thousands of comments.
- Media: Media might be an image file (jpg, gif, etc.) or a video file. Media is usually nested in a post, but I suspect some of the media on the page is saved into the media category with no referent post. For example, I see several albums posted from the 2018 convention (found in "Media"->"Albums"). I'm uncertain whether media in the "Media"->"Photos" or "Media"->"Videos" directories could have been uploaded to the "Media" directory alone or if they are necessarily nested in a post.

Each of these mediums will be associated with a user-author. Comments and posts also have reaction qualities (hearts, likes, scared face, etc). There are a variety of reactions and each reaction is associated with a user.

Methods:

- Built in tools: Facebook has built in tools that will give pretty complete data on posts, including: string data, user-author name, reaction quantity, comment quantity (no content), view count, and a URL to the post. There is also a slew of demographic data that mostly looks to be aimed at people interested in optimizing marketing. As far as I can tell these tools cannot export media or comment string/media data.
- Data scraping DIY: I have found some guides on how to build our own data scraping utility. I personally have limited coding experience and this kind of task is not really in my wheelhouse. I do think it would be possible but it might require a time commitment for me that is infeasible. There may be experts in the party that would be more appropriate to focus on this task - so long as they would spend the time to do it.
- Third Party Data scraping: There are a variety of existing tools to export group data. They range in price. Based on my initial search on this they may be as low as $11. I haven't done a thorough job of vetting these tools, but they often advertise that they can get us all this data. I suggest avoiding ones that advertise additional analytics into the users (aimed at optimizing marketing through demographic analysis) as they are often more expensive and would collect data on users that go beyond the scope of the HPC.
- Browser based apps: There may be functions within browsers or apps/extensions for browsers that can do some or all of this job. I have not dug deep enough into this to say because it didn't seem as fruitful to me at first glance. Maybe someone else would know better.
- Manual saving: We might want to manually save through the browser (copy,paste,download). This could be supplemented with using the built in tool to extract posts, but it seems unlikely that anyone would ever take the time to relate pasted comments to exported posts. We could just prioritize saving more interesting and important posts and media files

Other considerations:
- Ethics: it isn't obvious to me that individuals making comments and posting could have anticipated that their sentiments would be saved by the HPC. On one hand, I would say that they should know better and that these domains are public. However, as I understand it, if someone went through their old comments they could still delete them from the group/page. If someone deleted their facebook, their name would be hidden on any old post/comment they made in the facebook group. If we export the data and maintain a static record, all the user names would remain in that record even if the user deleted their facebook in the future. We could always just offer to delete author data if the author makes a direct request.
- Historical value: It seems to me that the historical value is somewhat sparse. Perhaps I am being biased but there are many reaction gifs or memes that do not add much historical value and depending on the method of capture it might be worth skipping these kinds of things.