

Oakland County Historical Commission Agenda
7:00 pm, October 14, 2024
BOC Conference Room

I. Roll call – meeting called to order at 7:07pm – absent: Egbo, Richardson, Mutch; present: Campbell, Decker, Walls, Murphy, Milne, Arwady

II. Additions/changes to this agenda; acceptance of the agenda – plans for Christmas party, Milne moves to hold it at Oakland History Center, Murphy seconds. December 9, 2024 at 7pm.

III. Approve Minutes from September 9, 2024 – Campbell moves, Murphy seconds; minutes approved

IV. New Business

- a. Name Badges and Business Cards: Proof for errors – Business cards \$162, name badges \$360.

V. Old Business

- a. Decker: 2024 budget final expenses
 - i. Items requested and purchased
 - 1. Camp chair
 - 2. Three scanners – document, book, & large format scanners
 - 3. Laptop for scanning, presentations, and ArcGIS – Decker and Milne suggest a member of OCHC must accompany the laptop when it is loaned out and that the laptop is secured at Oakland History Center when not in use; ArcGIS can be loaded on there, too; use for OCHC presentations
 - 4. Additional banner funding – allocated to Birmingham Museum for the Underground Railroad in Oakland County traveling exhibit
 - ii. Items not purchased- coming from 2025 budget or cancelled – Decker proposes not waiting until the end of the fiscal year to make these purchases
 - 1. Flash drives replenishment – still have ½ tub left from previous order; next time we order them, look for a different vendor, as many of these didn't work
 - 2. Cancelled: conference registration (Benton Harbor) – this opens up a spot for someone else at a different conference (discuss next month who/how many registrations are needed for the Local History Conference at OU in March 2025)
 - 3. Projector – budgeting \$400 – which one? Milne suggests budgeting more like \$1500 for a better quality device
 - 4. Old House Journal \$25.00
 - 5. Membership renewals (OCPHS, OCHR, HSM) \$350
 - 6. should we buy another drape for our outreach table?

7. Poster Project: get Great Migration poster done in 2025
- b. Decker: Oak Hill records update – have scanned 55k cemetery records! Part of National Network to Freedom application process—needing to confirm burials of freedom seekers and abolitionists. Next step is to scan larger ledgers.
- c. Milne: ArcGIS/County Resources for at-risk properties:
- i. Milne is working on an app through Arc Online, can set up a point for each at-risk property and include images. This information could be accessed with a QR code, put on County website, etc. In addition to images, forms, tables, etc. can be used to record info like dates associated with property. It's part of our charge to maintain a register of at-risk properties; this is a good way to do it.
 - ii. OCHC should reach out to the History Coalition to ask for info about their at-risk properties, let them know about the database we're creating. Could include places that aren't currently at-risk (but would be good to know about them, before the wrecking ball gets there!)
 - iii. Campbell and Milne to flesh out the type of information to be collected. Campbell suggests using the State Historic Survey to determine some of these questions. Campbell to send OCHC members the State Historic Survey.
 - iv. Milne to demonstrate mapping next month. Decker, Campbell, Milne + students could also meet at Oakland History Center (outside of regular OCHC meeting) to work out some of this.
- d. Decker: P Card for purchases – Let's use JoAnn's.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. At-Risk Properties that we know of
- i. Rochester High School – no update; Murphy reports that exterior seems to be in great shape, but nothing has been worked out with developer yet; community support for this has been very strong...but how long can it last?
 - ii. Roosevelt School – Decker – still working through court system, and a community group is organizing to protect this property. OCHC could help them decide what to do with the artifacts and other materials inside of the building
 - iii. Davis House (new – Decker) – on Andersonville Road; Walls knows about the property, too. It is on Springfield Oaks Golf Course (Oakland County Parks), under management by Springfield Historical Society previously, but the group is no longer active. House fell into disrepair; Oakland County Parks approached OCPHS to take over the property, but OCPHS would like to know if there are other options—like moving the house next to Ellis Barn across the street (could be repurposed as a wedding/rental venue). Campbell and Egbo have been working on this and a move across the street seems highly likely. What will happen to the artifacts inside? Could they be stored inside Ellis

Barn (with permission from Parks)? Decker assisting with this. Structure of house is stable. A move probably won't happen for a few years; OCPHS can take a custodial role in the meantime.

b. Map Digitization

i. David Porath (Pontiac photographer who photo'd all the OCPHS lithics collection). Decker and Porath to see about digitizing (and un-sleeving) the Clarkston Historical's copy of the 1857 map.

c. Poster Project

d. Website

e. Preservation

VII. Tabled Items

a. Archive Tour

b. 1820 Proclamation

c. Time Capsule

d. Finding Guide