

Oakland County Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm, February 12, 2023

Pernick Aaron Conference Room

- I. Roll call: Decker, Mutch, Murphy, Walls, Milne. Absent: Egbo, Richardson, Arwady.
- II. Agenda Changes:
 - a. Milne has an update on OU matters. Mutch wishes to discuss Local History Conference. Changes accepted.
- III. Minutes from November 13, 2023: Motion by Decker, second by Mutch – approved.
- IV. The lights went out in the conference room. Decker found the light switch (its on a timer).
- V. **New Business:**
 - i. Commission direction: Decker verbosed his way through a short blather about how the Commission should reevaluate current OCHC projects as listed on the November agenda with a plea to all commission members to assess our direction. After a short discussion, the concept was swiftly tabled until the March meeting.
 - ii. Potential new commission members: A conversation about potential new commission members arrived at the conclusion that Decker should reach out to Campbell and encourage him to apply.
 - iii. Funding request to BOC for additional UGRR exhibit posters - Decker offered that Leslie Pielack is taking the lead with Sarah Moreau about the matter. More to come.
 - iv. The lights went out again.
 - b. Annual report to the Board of Commissioners
 - i. Date set, Thursday, March 14 at 9:30 AM
 - ii. Topics/Presentation: Primary – “How Can We Help You”? – Secondary: Status update on projects.
 - 1. Decker will oblige our BOC by preparing a presentation to be reviewed at the March 12 meeting.
 - 2. All agreed that it would be A Good Idea if as many of us as possible could attend.
 - c. OCPHS 150th Anniversary – Discussion tabled in favor of turning on the lights (again).
- II. **Old Business**
 - a. Action Items
 - i. Time Capsule Pricing/Update (Rosie) – Tabled. No report.
 - ii. Certificate of thanks to Jim Craft – Certificate template received, I will send to JoAnn for signature. Decker to investigate the certificate template/process for getting it signed.
 - iii.

III. Committee Reports

- a. History Coalition – Egbo submitted comments, attached. Next meeting April 24, 2024 – Bloomfield Historical Society at Bowers Farm.
- b. Cemetery Coalition – See Egbo’s comments, attached. Next meeting March 28 at Waterford Oaks.
- c. A combined History and Cemetery Coalition meeting will be held in June re: America250 planning.
- d. At-Risk Properties
 - i. Rochester High School – Murphy presented scant information about the current progress for repurposing the building. Not his fault; there isn’t anything new.
 - ii. Payne-Waugh Cemetery – Decker suggests we table this.
 - iii. See Egbo’s notes for an update on Roosevelt School.
- e. 1857 Map Digitization – Decker passed his laptop around to show off the photo of the Clarkston wall map. He will reach out to CIDL director about scheduling a photography session with it.
- f. Local history as a subset of American History – Tabled until March.
- g. Poster Project – Tabled until March.
- h. African American History – See Egbo’s comments – being presented to OC Executive Council Feb 27, Equity Council Feb 29.
- i. Essay Contest– Tabled until March.
- j. Time Capsule– Tabled until March.
- k. Website – – Tabled until March.
- l. Preservation – Workshop, Historic House Preservation Guide

IV. Tabled/Further Discussion Points:

- a. Archives
- b. 1820 Proclamation
- c. Finding Guide
- d. Tax Millage

V. Upcoming Events

Meeting Input from Carol Egbo

- a. **History Coalition** -We only had 5 historical groups represented at the Virtual Coalition Meeting in January. Good discussion with those who were there but a disappointing turnout. Here are meeting topics and dates for the rest of the year:

April 24, 2024 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Host: Bloomfield Historical Society

Location: Bowers School Farm - Historic Buildings (waiting on final confirmation for exact meeting location)

Topic: Preserving, Restoring and Maintaining Historic Structures

June 4, 2024 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Host: Oakland County Parks

Location: Waterford Oaks County Park

Topic: Planning for *America250*

NOTE: This History Coalition meeting will be a joint meeting with the Oakland County Cemetery Coalition.

September 12 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Host: Rose Township Heritage Committee

Location: The newly-renovated 1881 Rose Township Hall

Topic: Tips for planning and leading a walk plus a walking tour of historic Rose Center

- b. **Cemetery Coalition** – The Cemetery Coalition will meet on March 28 at Waterford Oaks. Main Topic: Methods for preserving, repairing and cleaning gravestones. The Cemetery Coalition will meet in June with the History Coalition for *America250* planning.
- c. **At-Risk Properties** -At the request on Ron Campbell and Sue Williams I did an analysis of land transfer records including deeds relating to the Roosevelt School property. Sue had hoped there was some type of deed restriction requiring continued educational/public use of the property. Unfortunately, that does not appear to be the case.

African American History – I will be doing a presentation on *Oakland County Freedom Seekers* for the Executive Council on Feb. 27 and the Equity Council on Feb. 29