

Oakland County Historical Commission Minutes

7:00 pm, March 11, 2024

BOC Conference Room

- I. Roll call – Present: Egbo, Milne, Richardson, Arwady, Mutch, Walls, Decker. Absent: Murphy. Meeting called to order at 7:11pm.
- II. Addition to the agenda: discussion on how to support OCPHS 150 (added to Old Business). Change accepted.
- III. Approve Minutes from February 12, 2024 – Motion by Richardson, second by Milne. Minutes approved.
- IV. New Business:
 - a. Discussion of Davisburg Mill site
 - b. OCHC Projects Assessment – Is there anything we need to add/change/remove for the upcoming year? Discussion:
 - i. We are all volunteers, and working out logistics is time-consuming. Should we be giving guidance to local organizations and suggesting resources, rather than doing such projects ourselves?
 - ii. Maybe we could organize a workshop or series of workshops or guides, such as historic house preservation or state/national marker programs or HSM's marker program.
 - iii. Finding aids directory for collections in Oakland County; directory of at-risk properties, a how-to sheet with info for saving sites—this is important for saving these properties, or at least documenting them before they're gone.
 - iv. Website – links page to local historical societies needs maintenance! (Remind History Coalition to keep us apprised of website URL / phone number updates).
 - v. Look at old agendas – how can we move forward on old projects, is there a new way to look at them? How do we want to present ourselves—perhaps a new OCHC trifold?
 - vi. School districts are interested in time capsules, but have not made a formal commitment to a specific topic or timeline, which gives us time and flexibility to refine what we're asking for (if we're not relating it to how our school or community dealt with covid), try to line up with school building/administrator/graduating class anniversary of some sort. Can we have the community weigh in on what topic they want to commemorate. Can we reconceptualize? See if Library of Congress has a standard for content, what kinds of things would researchers be interested in finding in a time capsule. Richardson to reach out to interested teachers to see if they're still interested in the time

capsule, in the topic, etc. Have any school districts done time capsules? Waterford has capsules to be opened in 2025.

- vii. We need a list of poster topics to carry that project forward, as well as define our audience and what do we want to communicate. Connect posters to website for more info via QR code, speaker presentations, etc. Sarah Moreau is our new contact for the poster project. Our website really needs to be ready to go for these other initiatives to work.
- c. Presentation to the BOC Thursday, March 14 at 9:30 AM – Presentation Review and Discussion:
 - i. Put detailed info in a handout, but keep power point slides visual, and one bullet point per slide.
 - ii. Emphasize interdepartmental relationships (OCHC has worked with clerk's office, economic development and community affairs, county parks, communications, etc.) Decker will continue to build presentation.
- d. HSM Local History Conference March 22-23, tables are available, are we attending – Richardson and Egbo will help staff table, Egbo has the tablecloth; we can display the 1877 Map, lithics from OCPHS (Egbo to provide text), Elizabeth Denison Forth postcards (*note: Rich Stamps has also offered to staff the table*)

V. Old Business

- a. Action Items
 - i. OCPHS 150 – how can OCHC support this? OCPHS wants to do a lecture series each month; OCHC can invite all of the BOC to attend all of these lecture events, the OCPHS annual meeting, etc.
 - ii. Potential new commission members – encourage them to apply at this link: <https://forms.oakgov.com/79>
 - iii. Funding request to BOC for additional UGRR exhibit posters
 - iv. Time Capsule Pricing/Update (Richardson) – discussed earlier, with New Business
 - v. Certificate of thanks to Jim Craft – Certificate template received, Decker will send to JoAnn for signature

VI. Committee Reports - Tabled

- a. *History Coalition*
- b. *Cemetery Coalition*
- c. *At-Risk Properties*
- d. *Rochester High School*
- e. *Roosevelt Elementary School*
- f. *Payne-Waugh Cemetery*
- g. *1857 Map Digitization*

- h. Local history as a subset of American History*
 - i. African American History*
 - j. Poster Project*
 - k. Essay Contest*
 - l. Time Capsule*
 - m. Website*
 - n. Preservation – Workshop, Historic House Preservation Guide*
- VII. Tabled/Further Discussion Points – Tabled (again)*
 - a. Archives*
 - b. 1820 Proclamation*
 - c. Finding Guide*
 - d. Tax Millage*
- VIII. Upcoming Events/Announcements – motion to table everything we didn't cover (Committee Reports and Tabled/Further Discussion Points from previous meeting). Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.*