

Oakland County Historical Commission Minutes

7:00 pm, June 10, 2024

BOC Conference Room

- I. **Roll call:** Present: Arwady, Mutch, Decker, Walls, Egbo. Absent: Richardson, Milne, Murphy, Campbell. Meeting called to order at 7:07pm.
- II. **Additions/changes to this agenda; acceptance of the agenda**
- III. **Approve Minutes from May 13, 2024** – Decker moves, Walls seconds, minutes approved.
- IV. **New Business:**
 - a. Announcement: Ron Campbell has joined the Historical Commission!
 - b. Announcement: Juneteenth Celebration is Wednesday June 12, 2024, 11am–1:30pm at the Oakland County Courthouse. Decker couldn't get a hold of Weaver to see about having a table for OCHC; **Carol will reach out and see if there is space for OCHC to have a table.** Decker, Egbo will be there; and Mutch is a maybe. Decker could grab our tent from Wisner.
 - c. Let's put America250 and America250MI on our radar
 - i. Egbo: we should advocate for a County committee with a wide range of members, fundraisers, etc. **Decker will arrange a meeting with Woodward.**
 - d. Does the historical commission want/need a P card for making purchases?
 - i. This would simplify our purchasing/reimbursement process. JoAnn Stringfellow can hold onto the card and we request it as needed.
 - e. History of Oakland County 1817-1877 book rebound – where does it go?
 - f. Are there any local historical societies that don't have a copy yet? (The Oakland History Center already has several copies.) Does Oakland University Archives have a copy in their collection? Or we could add this one to the display in the BOC building, with cover closed since the current copy is displayed open. Egbo – perhaps it could go in the future Bicentennial Park, if that has an enclosed building. **Decker will take it to the Oakland History Center for safekeeping right now.**
 - g. Mutch put together a list of websites where we can find Oakland County public libraries with contact information. **Copy enclosed.** We can use this list as we develop contact info and descriptions of what the libraries have regarding local history in their collections. Decker wonders if this resource list might include research libraries, too. Maybe we can help libraries rehome their local history collections, if they are considering no longer maintaining them. Mutch: we can send library directors/local history collection coordinators a one-page survey with questions like – What do you have? (Books, Oral Histories, Photos, Maps, Correspondence/Research Inquiries,

Diaries, other formats?) Do you have documentation of historic cemeteries in your community (perhaps info gathered by DAR)?

i.

V. Old Business

a. Action Items

- i. Funding request to BOC for additional UGRR exhibit posters – reaching out to commissioners? Which ones? **Decker will reach out to Dave Woodward to see if a blanket ask vs. individual request is more appropriate**
- ii. Time Capsule Pricing/Update (Rosie) – move to 2026
- iii. Decker: send certificate of appreciation for Jim Craft to JoAnn for signature. Copy enclosed. Decker will get it framed. How do we want to present it to Jim? Will decide after it's signed and framed.
- iv. K. Mutch: Investigating LHC Planning Committee/in kind sponsorships
 1. Planning meeting isn't until fall; Mutch has made initial approach to HSM LHC planning committee. Mutch suggests Milne join planning committee (it's just a one-meeting commitment) as an OU faculty member and to represent OCHC. Decker suggests Ron Campbell also try to join the planning committee, for the County connection.
- v. Decker: Funding request for additional UGRR banners; Decker is awaiting pricing from Pielack before approaching relevant commissioners. Egbo: we need more details about planned revisions (Farmington is central because of its position on the 1877 map, although the map is really difficult to see on the banner version) and possibly wait for the Phase 2 banners.
- vi. Richardson: To send update on time capsule to interested communities, follow up with Teasley, target year is 2026

VI. Committee Reports

a. History Coalition/Cemetery Coalition

- i. Egbo: good turnout, attendees from both groups, positive reception to America250. Next meeting isn't until September. It may/may not be another combined meeting. Will talk about America250, preservation, how to organize an historic walk, and the group could take a tour of Rose Center Cemetery.

b. At-Risk Properties: Take to history coalition, ask for input (and also consult with Campbell about these)

- i. Rochester High School – no update
- ii. Roosevelt Elementary School – still pending
- iii. Payne-Waugh Cemetery – still holding out hope

- iv. Discussion: how should we be tracking AR properties? **Is there a county mechanism we can use for this? Check with Ron Campbell at next OCHC meeting.**
- c. 1857 Map Digitization – Marked as complete in minutes – let’s discuss
 - i. Still need to photograph the Clarkston Library copy – fall is the best time to do this (after summer reading is done and before school starts), need to coordinate a date and time with Library Director, as well as a pro photographer (who we pay) OR we could photograph the uncovered map at Hadley House, which is also in pretty good shape, however it is yellowed and faded. **Decker can get a photography quote from David Porath** who has photographed the lithics at History Center. Mutch wonders if we should try consulting with State Archives for advice/resources. **Decker will check in with Clarkston and Holly.** Keep this item on the agenda.
- d. Poster Project – Egbo discussed with Steve Dorsey, we are to gather assets & research. **Decker to arrange meeting with Steve to see what will work with his department.** Need to get info from Milne when he is back.
- e. Website – add list of national markers (places in Oakland County that are on the National Register), Milne to research, **Decker or Campbell will contact SHPO and ask for a list.**
- f. Preservation – Workshop, Historic House Preservation Guide – OCHC members to search for links, update accordingly – **Decker will coordinate with Campbell on this**

VII. Tabled/Further Discussion Points:

- a. Archives – **Decker to contact Lisa Brown for another tour w/ relevant commission members.** OCHC can advise preservation/digitization efforts.
- b. 1820 Proclamation – tabled from last meeting – wait until opening of Bicentennial Oaks Park to help give it context
- c. Finding Guide – Decker/Mutch ongoing discussion; Decker: let’s ask History Coalition to come up with subcommittee/workgroup to help with this project. Mutch
- d. Tax Millage – tabled for the moment

VIII. Upcoming Events/Announcements

- a. Juneteenth Celebration
- b. OCPHS Summer Social at Oakland History Center – Saturday & Sunday July 27 & 28, 12pm – 4pm.

Motion made to adjourn by Mutch. Seconded by Arwady.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Kathleen M. Mutch

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OCHC meeting: June 10, 2024

RE: Developing contact info and descriptions of what Oakland County public libraries have regarding local history in their collections

The website, **OaklandCountyMoms.com**, maintains a list of Oakland County Libraries.

The list includes: library name, street address, city/twp, zip code, phone number, and website address.

It is dated January 18, 2024.

The Library Network website, **TLN.org**, shows a list of libraries that includes the public libraries in Oakland County, has a link to a printable list of member libraries, and a link to a map showing the location of those libraries. The printable list has the main phone number for each of those libraries.

Suburban Library Cooperative, **libcoop.net**, includes one Oakland County library, Troy Public Library, its address and a link to the library's website. The Troy Library is not part of the Library Network.

Local History Reference Collections for Public Libraries (c.2015) by Kathy Marquis and Leslie Waggener, might be a good book to use in developing a set of guidelines to use when describing how local libraries in Oakland County are covering local history. It is available from the American Library Association.

For contact information, our list could have the library's main number and contact info for the director and for anyone (if anyone) responsible for developing and maintaining that library's local history collection.