

Oakland County Historical Commission Minutes

7:00 pm, February 10, 2025

Zoom

I. Roll call: Present: Decker, Richardson, Mutch, Walls, Arwady, Campbell, Murphy, Egbo;
Absent: Milne

II. Additions/changes to this agenda; acceptance of the agenda – agenda accepted unanimously

III. Approve Minutes from January 13, 2025 and October 14, 2024 – no meeting in November; no notes taken in December. Richardson moves, Walls seconds. All in favor; minutes approved.

IV. New Business

1. Decker's meeting with Michael Andrews, Andrea Powers and Ruth Zittrich – action items, presentation, five-year plan.
- They are interested in supporting efforts we might undertake to host physical and/or digital archives.
- **Important: they want OCHC to have a five year plan.**
 - Richardson suggests a three-year projection, rather than a plan, and perhaps scheduling quarterly check-ins.
 - Mutch suggests breaking down a five-year plan into 1, 2, 3 years, etc.
 - Campbell notes having a strategic plan will help make sure projects are getting done.
 - Decker notes that a five-year plan should include items we might need them to fund.
- They also want to **prioritize public access to information we collect/house.**
 - Richardson suggests a newsletter as way for us to help meet this goal of being more public-facing.
 - Providing finding aids and directing people to local archives, libraries, and museums is another way to facilitate access.
 - **We could send a 5-8 survey or questionnaire** to all the local historical societies to prompt them to share an overview of their collections, so we know where to direct researchers. Egbo suggests trying this **ahead of the April history coalition meeting.**
- Campbell suggests Mike West or someone to lead our strategic planning process. Egbo thinks we don't need to do a full planning process; maybe a simpler, more streamlined approach since we already have a mission statement and three categories—education, advocacy, collaboration. Richardson suggests gleaning some structure from recent historical society's strategic planning. Richardson suggests splitting the three categories amongst OCHC members. Decker suggests scheduling a meeting just for strategic planning, separate from our regular OCHC monthly meeting. Murphy suggests **making these three**

areas (education, advocacy, collaboration) the topic of next month's agenda, identify what we're already doing in these areas, and perhaps looking at a 2-3 year plan might make more sense for us. Lots of agreement. Mutch points out having a strategic plan would help incoming OCHC members get their bearings. **Our March meeting will largely focus on five-year planning, with a little bit of time to talk about the local history conference.**

2. OCPHS – changes at the top, etc. Director Mike McGuinness is running for mayor of Pontiac; interim director is in place.

V. Old Business

- a. Intern – Silvia Chinen; tabled until Milne is available
- b. Local History Conference Registrations Confirmed
 - i. Brochure discussion
- c. Decker: 2025 budget Items not yet purchased – to be completed when Decker gets a P-card.
 - i. Flash drives replenishment
 - ii. Projector – budgeting \$400 – which one?
 - iii. Old House Journal \$25.00
 - iv. Membership renewals (OCPHS, OCHR, HSM) \$350
- d. Oakland County Historical Resources Group Update – Decker – Data to migrate to Library of Michigan. Orion Library to shut down this server and sell equipment. Option: OCPHS could possibly purchase and keep to preserve this archive.
- e. Milne/Campbell: ArcGIS/County Resources for at-risk properties – no update
- f. Decker: P Card requested, awaiting county response.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. At-Risk Properties
 - i. Rochester High School – Murphy – nothing new in the newspapers; garlic barn in Oakland Twp. was in Rochester Post, though! Moved across the street and put on a new foundation by Oakland Twp. Board of Trustees for \$150k. Egbo and Decker suggest this would be a good thing to **highlight with a recognition certificate.**
 - ii. Roosevelt School – federal case was last week; Court of Appeals hasn't issued a judgement yet, per newspaper
 - iii. Davis House – no update
- b. Map Digitization
 - i. David Porath/Clarkston Historical collaboration – nothing new to report
- c. Poster Project – Report from Rosie/George on content for vetting; Rosie suggests looking into what the cost would be for a freestanding panel display, instead of posters? Egbo suggests we consider making a traveling exhibit version that communities could borrow. Richardson also wonders about buying easels, rather

than having libraries hang the posters on the walls; Decker notes that several libraries have indicated they'd rather hang framed posters than use easels.

Poster Process: OCHC members draft content (Rosie and George); content is vetted (maybe by Prof. Dykes at Oakland University); vetted content goes to county to layout and print posters, and mail them to the libraries. We will be able to approve the layout before it gets printed and mailed.

d. Website – Decker – may be used to house **Oak Hill archive; can discuss next month**

e. Preservation – Campbell and Egbo doing “House Histories, House Mysteries” research and outreach series; Campbell doing HDC training for Holly

VII. Tabled Items

- a. Archive Tour
- b. 1820 Proclamation
- c. Time Capsule
- d. Finding Guide

VIII. Announcements/Upcoming Events

1. Richardson: 2/15 Pontiac Public Library holding Black History Month events
2. Egbo: 4/1 from 1pm-3pm at Waterford Oaks next Coalition meeting with presenters from Library of Michigan and Michigan Memories

Next meeting: Monday March 10, 2025 at the County

Adjourned at 8:33pm.

Meeting Dates for 2025: 01/13, 02/10, 03/10, 04/14, 05/12, 06/09, 07/14, 08/11, 09/08, 10/13, 11/10