



NOVI HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MARCH Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Novi Library Local History Room

CALL TO ORDER: 7:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Kim Nice, Sharon Larson, Debbie Wrobel, Kathy Crawford, Kelly Kasper, Randy Van Wagnen

ABSENT: Dan Pierce

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Rae Manela (Library Liaison)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: APPROVED

APPROVAL OF February MINUTES: APPROVED

NOVI HISTORICAL COMMISSION FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT - 2024/2025 Fiscal Year				
	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES Thru March 19, 2025		
Display Cabinet Exhibit	\$ 500.00	\$ (281.39)		
Marketing/Brochures/Engage/Name Badges	\$ 900.00	\$ (104.93)		
Equipment/Supplies/Office/Upgrades/Repairs	\$ 12,000.00	\$ (13,856.22)		
Program/Speaker Fees	\$ 1,200.00	\$ (1,483.94)		
Storage Unit	\$ 2,750.00	\$ (2,400.00)		
Acquisition (Books/Materials/Subscriptions)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (400.00)		
Conference/Continuing Education	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -		
Legal Fees	\$ 500.00	\$ -		
Special Project Items				
Betty Lang Internships		\$ (1,500.00)		
Oral Histories		\$ -		
City/Community Events		\$ (53.70)		
Photography		\$ -		
Special Project Totals	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (1,553.70)		
TOTAL:	\$ 23,850.00	\$ (20,080.18)	\$ 3,769.82	
Equitable Projects	Expenses	Sales / Contributions		
Villa Barr Book Sales YTD				
Wreaths Across Novi Project	\$ 2,196.16	\$ 2,600.00		

Treasurer's Report: APPROVED – Expenses last month were for half the renewal of the Omeka subscription for the graveyard images and for a hard drive to store images and documents. The commission received the final donation for Wreaths Across Novi.

LIBRARY LIAISON REPORT:

Digitization Project: The library intern (Jillian) is making progress on digitizing images. Rae is working on a new binder to reference where things are located in the Local History Room.

Newspapers: Rae received the digitized Novi News archives from the Lake Orion Library following the Oakland County Historical Records closing. They are currently being stored on a Google drive until Rae finds a new place for them to be stored.

Document Donation Day: The next document donation day will be held on Saturday, May 3 at the Novi Public Library from 2 – 4 p.m. Rae asked that when we receive any documents, we use a pencil not a pen to write what the items are on a sticky note. Pens can leak onto the document.

Microfiche Reader: Rae said that the new microfiche reader in the Local History Room will be available for public use this Spring.

History Room Office Hours:

Monday, April 7 (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.): Sharon Larson and Kathy Crawford

Monday, April 21 (6 – 8 p.m.): Kelly Kasper and Dan Pierce

Monday, May 5 (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.): Sharon Larson and Debbie Wrobel

Monday, March 19 (6 – 8 p.m.): Kelly Kasper and Randy Van Wagnen

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Novi Community Fest: The annual Novi Community Fest will take place on Thursday, June 5 from 4 – 8 p.m. at the Novi Community Center. Kim, Debbie and Sue plan on doing something for the Commission's booth around the Novi Special. Kathy will assist by getting some information from Ed Grewal.

By-Laws: Kim is sending out a digital copy of the Historical Commission's by-laws to all of the commissioners. Each commissioner is asked to review them and provide Kim with any feedback. The deadline for review and approval of any changes will be the July meeting.

Fox Run Presentation: Kathy Crawford will be giving a presentation on the history of Novi at Fox Run, Wednesday, March 26th at 10 a.m. Commission members will be attending as well.

DYK Project: Kim plans on posting a DYK next week and will need new ones for April. Sharon and Dan will provide some additional posts for April and May to be placed on the Commission Facebook page.

Speaker Series: Rae updated the upcoming speaker's schedule for February through May 2026.

Novi Public Library 65th Anniversary: The March planning meeting was pushed to April. Kim and Sue will work on the display case space to promote the event. The celebration will take place on Oct. 26 from 1-5 p.m. All commission members are expected to attend. Assignments leading up to the event will be made following the April planning meeting.

Michigan in Perspectives History Conference: The annual history conference will take place March 28-29 at Oakland University. Historical Commission members are planning to attend.

Miniature Project: Progress continues to be made on the miniature project. Kathy is working on the floor for the store. Kim asked Rae to book the Youth Activity Room from Noon – 3 p.m. on April 4, April 11, April 25 and May 9.

ONGOING PROJECTS:

Villa Barr Books: The Novi Public Library has Villa Barr books for sale and a flyer is posted inside the library letting people know.

NEW BUSINESS:

Items for Donations: Kathy Crawford and Randy Van Wagnen are getting together with Sheryl Walsh from the City of Novi to participate in a podcast. No date is set yet. They will likely talk about the amusement park or the general store.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEXT MEETING: April 16, 2025 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURN: 8:28 p.m.