



NOVI HISTORICAL COMMISSION

AUGUST Minutes

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Novi Library Local History

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 pm

ATTENDANCE: Kim Nice, Debbie Wrobel, Sharon Larson, Kathy Crawford, Dan Pierce,

ABSENT: Kelly Kasper, Rae Manela

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Sue Grifor, Randy Van Wagnen, Gwen & Bruce Markham

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: APPROVED w/ amendments

APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES: APPROVED

TREASURER’S REPORT- Kim

NOVI HISTORICAL COMMISSION FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT - 2023/2024 Fiscal Year

	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES Through August 16, 2023	
Display Cabinet Exhibit	\$ 500	\$ -	
Marketing/Brochures/Engage/Name Badges	\$ 900	\$ -	
Equipment/Supplies/Office/Upgrades/Repairs	\$ 9,000	\$ -	
Program/Speaker Fees	\$ 1,200	\$ -	
Storage Unit	\$ 2,900	\$ (2,652.00)	
Acquisition (Books/Materials)	\$ 1,500	\$ (1,200.00)	
Conference/Continuing Education	\$ 1,200	\$ -	
Legal Fees	\$ 500	\$ -	
Special Projects Examples: Villa Barr, Photography, Veterans Sign, Oral Histories, City/Community Events, Motor City Marker	\$ 4,000	\$ (179.69)	
Total:	\$ 21,700	\$ (4,031.69)	\$ 17,668
Equitable Projects	Expenditures	Revenue Received	
Villa Barr Book Sales YTD		\$0.00 YTD	
Wreaths Across Novi Project		\$ 897.38	carryover funds

Treasurer’s Report: ALL APPROVED

LIBRARY LIAISON REPORT:

Oakland County Historical Research (OCHR) Alternative: There are some concerns about the OCHR’s ability to post newspapers digitally. As a result, Rae Manela asked Dan Pierce to research alternative options to OCHR for the Commission to consider.

History Room Office Hours:

Closed for August

Monday, 9/18 (6-8 p.m.): Kelly Kasper

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Changing Office Hours Days/Times: Rae Manela asked the Commission to consider new dates and times for office hours. Possibly changing from 10 a.m. – Noon on Mondays and moving evening hours to another day. Commissioners will vote on options in September. Any new dates wouldn’t be implemented until 2024.

Meeting with Novi City Manager: Kathy Crawford met with Victor Cardenas (Novi City Manager) to discuss the changes made to the revised Novi Historical Brochure re: how Novi got its name. Victor agreed the next printing of the brochure should include the new, documented explanation on how Novi got its name that the Commission researched. Victor also agreed to look into the extensive number of forms possible speakers need to fill out.

Cemetery Sign Update: Kathy Crawford presented a bid for \$7,494 for two new cemetery signs with the updated/correct information. The City will install them if purchased. There was a motion to approve, and the motion passed.

Miniature Project: Guest Randy VanWagnen, an animation teacher, spoke about the need for his Washtenaw Community College class to work on a modeling project. Randy said his class could take on the task of building out a miniature of the Novi General Store. A meeting on the project was also held on Aug. 2 in the History Room where the items available in the store and sizes were discussed. Another meeting is planned in the near future.

2023 – 2024 History Speakers Series: There are five events scheduled for 2023-2024 CY year:

- Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023 – A City Called Midnight
- Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023 – One Room School House
- Thursday, March 21, 2024 – Women of Michigan’s Capitol
- Thursday, April 18, 2024 – History of Detroit Coney Island
- Thursday, May 16, 2024 – Survivors, Victims & Legacies

Wisdom Exchange: The Commission voted to approve working with Novi resident Henry Yim on his program the “Wisdom Exchange” that connects older Novi residents with younger ones to share knowledge and the history of the area. The Commission also provided feedback on the program’s logo.

ONGOING PROJECTS:

Omeka Update: Several undergraduate and graduate student applications have come in for the \$2500 stipend to complete data entry for the photographs of all the tombstones in the Knapp and Novi Rd Cemetery. Applicants will present at a future Commission meeting.

Wreaths Across Novi: The Commission is getting ready to send sponsorship letters out by the end of the month. We are also looking to include the Boy Scouts as part of the service and provide a gift for people/organizations who have supported the event for 5 years.

NEW BUSINESS:

Display Case: The Villa Barr display has not been removed. Once it is, a new display will be put into the display case for the upcoming A City Called Midnight speaker series.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEXT MEETING: Sept. 20, 2023, at 7 p.m.

ADJOURN: 8:36 p.m.