

Oakland County Historical Commission
Minutes
August 2, 2022

1. Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM
2. Present: Richard Stamps, Dave Walls, Rosie Richardson, Jim Craft
3. Absent: Stephanie Suszek, Dave Decker, Carol Egbo, Jerry Murphy
4. June 7, 2022, minutes approved
5. Discussion on changing date of the monthly meeting in order to avoid fairly frequent conflicts with first Tuesday. Second Tuesday proposed pending approval of absent members
6. Certificates of thanks for Melinda and Melissa awaiting signature of County Executive. Richard will handle this.
7. Richard to meet with Carolyn Krause, assistant to County Executive.
 - a. Certificate signature
 - b. Proposal of a wall mounted plaque for the County Execs office of the 3/28/1820 proclamation, a transcript of said proclamation and picture of Lewis Cass.
 - c. Initiate discussion of a millage for historical purposes: preservation, support of societies, promotion of history in the county.
8. Discussion of the 1857 map recently found in the County offices. Options discussed:
 - a. Preserve it. Is it reasonable? Need to get professional assessment. Need to find a place it can be unrolled, analyzed, and worked on for months. Oakland University?
 - b. If restored, where should it go? County building? Oakland University?
 - c. Cut it and bind it in some kind of portfolio.
 - d. Cut it and distribute the individual townships to respective libraries or township buildings.
 - e. Rich will discuss possibilities with Oakland University.
9. At risk properties: Spencer Farm, Wixom. Family is looking for help. This led to discussion of our role and perhaps the benefit of having a packet of describing possible action steps for people looking for help. We have limited capacity but we can provide advice, contacts, etc. For example: funding sources, grant writing tips, key contacts, government support, issues to consider, success stories, failures, tax issues, historic designation issues, etc.
10. SB 653. Seems to be on hold. Discussion of the benefit of such a millage but general belief that it might be best for us to limit our activity to an Oakland County millage. Would be appropriate to begin the process.
11. Local History/American History projects:
 - a. PowerPoint project: committee will be meeting with Oakland County ISD on August 8 at Troy Historic Village. ISD seems to be interested in the idea of local history being used in teaching American History. The PowerPoint idea may not be the best option: 1) they may have other ideas; 2) PowerPoint is not in general use in schools. They use Google Slides which may not have the required audio capabilities.
 - b. Poster project was well received by Gwen Markham and encouraged submitting a budget addition. This has been done. It will be necessary to begin finding places to display the poster. Plan on discussing and assigning responsibilities at the next meeting.
12. African American History project. In process. Deliverable would be a booklet on "Freedom Seekers" and perhaps entrepreneurs in the African-American community.
13. Essay Contest/Time capsule...in process.
14. The OCHC was gifted a copy of the 1877 History of Oakland County. Cover needs replacement but pages here was some discussion on potential use of this: producing multiple copies and make available for the various history groups in the county to resell as a fund raiser. Craft will pursue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM