

Oakland County Historical Commission Minutes

7:00 pm, April 10, 2023

BOC Conference Room

- I. Roll call: Dave Walls, Rosie Richardson, Dave Decker, George Milne, Kathy Mutch, Stephanie Arwady, Jerry Murphy; call to order at 7:04pm Absent: Jim Craft, Carol Egbo
- II. Approve Minutes from March 13, 2023 – moved (Rosie) and seconded (George). Minutes approved.
- III. Additions to the agenda - n/a
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Preservation
 1. Preservation Committee - Carol (tabled)
 2. At Risk Properties
 - a) Rochester School – Jerry: no official update from the district; Tiffany Dzurman (Rochester-Avon Historical) also had no update
 - b. Facebook status
 1. Dave D and Stephanie can log in and post to OCHC FB page; can we create a user to manage the page with a county email address, instead of using our personal accounts? Dave to check with county IT at our next website meeting 4/19. Maybe historic@oakgov.com? We need an email contact to list on the website anyway. Dave & Steph to coordinate posting schedule, style/voice, etc.
 - c. “1857 Land ownership map”
 1. (Hess map # 6) – resolution on its disposition: currently in climate-controlled storage at OCPHS but it is damaged enough at the top that restoration might not be worth it. Suggestion from Dave D and Jim – cut up the map and give the sections to their respective townships. Drawbacks to cutting it up—we can’t guarantee each section will be protected or saved long-term by each township; some 1857 townships have different town/city lines today. It might be better to use the Clarkston copy to create a really good quality digital version, which could also be printed full size through Oakland Schools. Moved, seconded, resolved: keep in storage at OCPHS for now.
 2. Status on photo of Clarkston library copy – Dave D., Dave W., and George plan to visit and see if it can be removed from the frame and/or plastic sleeve to photograph it without a glare and will work on photographing best parts of various copies of the 1857 map, including Clarkston (Dave D. will update his map assessment document). George will contact curator at the U of M map library to see if they can help with their large bed scanner; we could ask Clarkston if they’d be willing to have their map scanned at U of M. End goal: having a digital version accessible to the public and having printed copies (full size or smaller) available for local libraries, etc.
 - d. History Coalition Meeting – Dave D.
 1. Next Meeting Date/Location: TBD; Royal Oak might not be available for May meeting
 2. Agenda Ideas: think of ideas before next OCHC meeting
 - e. Local History Conference – Rosie: Jim, Jerry, and Rosie took turns manning the OCHC table with Great Migration banner, map, and other handouts from OCHC and OCPHS. Rosie suggests next year, we could submit a session proposal based on our how-to preservation guide, highlight our projects like the Hess map and other preservation projects. Kathy is on the LHC planning committee that decides session topics each year and points out that OCHC probably can’t give multiple sessions at the same conference (but we could do one session!).
- V. Committee reports
 - a. Web site – Dave D., Stephanie, Jim
 1. Committee Meeting April 19 (Jim, Dave, Stephanie) – re: content like calendar, poster QR code info landing pages and finding guide, other needs
 2. April 20 Meeting with Sarah Moreau to discuss the above
 3. To add:
 - 1) Finding Guide
 - 2) Calendar
 - 3) Section for Poster QRC
 - b. Local History as a subset of American History - Jim, Stephanie, Rosie – will meet when Jim gets back re: posters #2 and #3
 1. Great Migration Poster #4 – Rosie/George

Oakland County Historical Commission Agenda

7:00 pm, January 9, 2023

- b. Historic house research guide - Carol, Dave D.: Dave found deed records via Family Search that go beyond what is available at other records repositories; historic house research guide will be part of website and resource guide, and will likely have three sections: rural, urban, and kit homes.
 - c. African American history – Rosie, Carol: still researching, tracing individuals from other states like KY and NY to Pontiac. Elizabeth Denison Forth plaque is out front at BOC building. Kathy wonders if the archives at Charles H. Wright would have materials relevant to Oakland County; Rosie will check there and with Detroit Historical Society.
 - d. Essay contest and time capsule- Rosie will reach out to superintendent and Dave Coulter’s office for information and additional resources. Essay contest for high school students comparing historic polio epidemic with more recent Covid-19 experiences.
- VI. New Business
- a. Dave W. has a ledger from an 1857 West Bloomfield resident (with a Walls family connection) that describes clearing a rink on Orchard Lake for a curling game, entries about the weather, attending a singing school. Dave W. thinking of transcribing and sharing each page for a glimpse into life in central Oakland County in the 1850s.
 - b. George will bring OCHC up to date with 1888 and 1919 Pontiac Sanborn Insurance maps project and related student Story Maps project at next meeting – add to May agenda.
 - c. For May agenda: discuss our session proposal for Local History Conference 2024.
- VII. Confirm action items from today’s meeting: The Daves & George re: Clarkston map; Rose and Geo re: Great Migration poster; Dave D & Steph re: social media; Rosie, Jim, Steph re: posters; everyone think of ideas for next Coalition meeting agenda
- VIII. Next meeting: May 8, 2023 at 7pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.