

Oakland County Historical Commission Minutes - DRAFT

7:00 pm, May, 8, 2023

BOC Conference Room

- I. Roll call: Kathy Mutch, Stephanie Arwady, George Milne, Jim Craft, Dave Walls, Jerry Murphy. Called to order at 7:07pm.
Absent: Rosie Richardson, Dave Decker, Carol Egbo.
- II. Approve Minutes from April 10, 2023 - approved
- III. Additions to the agenda -n/a
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Preservation
 - i. Preservation Committee - Carol - tabled
 - ii. At Risk Properties
 1. Rochester School – Jerry
 2. McMath - Craft
 - b. Facebook status: Stephanie and Dave D. to meet
 - c. “1857 Land ownership map”
 1. Photo of Clarkston library copy - The Daves, George – George spoke to curator Mary Pedley at the Bentley and got a contact at UMich who handles large scanning projects, will follow up to arrange a scan of the Hess map. Once we have the scan, goal is to put it up on the website. Motion made, seconded, and approved unanimously that OCHC will authorize up to \$200 for scanning if there is a fee. If we can get this scan, then we don’t necessarily need to photograph the Clarkston map.
 - d. History Coalition Meeting
 - i. Next Meeting Date/Location - TBD
 - ii. Agenda Ideas – Give coalition members the opportunity to make requests for what they need (records, research, maps, etc.). Present the local history/American history poster project and share the template if people request it to make their own city/twp. posters and give them opportunity to volunteer to help with future OCHC posters. Discuss ways to cross promote each other’s projects and events perhaps through each org’s social media and definitely on OCHC website events calendar; OCHC can make research requests that Coalition member orgs can help with from their own collections (archives, images, maps, etc.) for future posters – this could include topics like State Parks and/or Metroparks in Oakland County. George to share ArcGIS mapping project and see if Coalition members want specific maps/locations mapped.
 - e. 2024 Local History Conference – OCHC Presentation Ideas: Ways to encourage cooperation between county- and township-level historical societies; telling American history through the lens of local history – why it’s important, how we’re doing it, encourage local historians to link their area’s story to the broader picture of American history, etc.
- V. Committee reports
 - a. Web site - Tec Dave, Stephanie, Jim
 - i. URL is www.oakgov.com/historicalcommission or <https://www.oakgov.com/government/historical-commission>
 - ii. Additions:
 1. Corrected members – updated, including Jim as chair
 2. Finding Guide
 3. Poster QRC link
 4. Calendar – time to start adding events! Email local historical societies to collect their event information; should we offer a template and/or word count to help guide submissions? Reach out to libraries and Oakland University to have them submit their history-focused talks and programming for the OCHC calendar (George will ask OU if they will share their mailing list from History Comes Alive series; Jim to reach out to the libraries); submissions for the event calendar should be sent to Jim’s email address
 5. Libraries with Local History Collections – add a tab to County History Resources section
 - iii. More to add:
 1. Dave’s 1857 Ledger?? – Dave will follow up

Oakland County Historical Commission Agenda

7:00 pm, January 9, 2023

2. Historic house research guide (would go under Research Tools) – Carol is working on this; have local groups already done some of these for their own communities?
 3. User game: Participants take present-day pictures of the homes pictured in 1877 lithographs; then-and-now images can go on website
 4. Links to resources on other sites, such as:
 - a. Sanborn maps on Library of Congress website (with a disclaimer that not all of Oakland was mapped this way!)
 - b. Historical sites in the county with State markers
 - c. ArcGIS Story Map for Pontiac Sanborn Maps (George’s student’s project) – historic maps superimposed on modern maps. George to follow up with County to see if we can host through their ESRI account rather than OU’s.
 - b. Local History as a subset of American History - Jim, Stephanie, Rosie
 - i. Finalize 1800-1850 Migration Poster
 1. Volunteers for QRC additions – i.e. more content related to the poster topics that we can provide on the website
 2. Finalize distribution plan at June meeting
 - ii. Great Migration Poster Status– Rosie/George, in progress; goal to have it ready by September
 - iii. Poster 4 – topic could come from Jim’s short list or be something completely different
 - c. Historic house research guide - Carol, Tec Dave, - tabled
 - d. African American history - Rosie, Carol – tabled
 - e. Essay contest and time capsule- Rosie - tabled
- VI. New Business
- VII. Confirm action items from today’s meeting
- VIII. Next meeting: June 12, 2023. **Tec Dave, Chair** – meeting adjourned 9:00pm