



Minutes

Royal Oak Historical Commission Meeting

April 24, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Orson Starr House Museum
3123 North Main Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Present: Patrick Andras
Alex Kerrigan
Kathy Putnam
Nancy Robinson
Richard Karlowski

Absent: Katie McEachren
Isaac Wolf

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kerrigan at 7:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the April 24, 2024 meeting agenda.

Moved by: Kathy Putnam

Seconded by: Nancy Robinson

April 24, 2024 meeting agenda was approved.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 28, 2024 meeting minutes.

Moved by: Kathy Putnam

Seconded by: Patrick Andras

February 28, 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

6. Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the April 24, 2024 treasurer's report.

Moved by: Patrick Andras

Seconded by: Kathy Putnam

Treasurer's report was approved.

6.a Flyer Paranormal Donation Check

7. Historic and Community Group Reports

7.a Interclub

Cancelled and K Putnam had gone and found out only upon arrival. It was scheduled for Friday April 19 at the Judson Center.

7.b Historic District Study Committee

Last meeting held Thursday April 18. Patrick Andrus reported. Mr. Hertel of 203 S Sunnybrook attended to request his home be studied. His grandfather built the home in 1926 and only his family has owned it.

Leo Derdelakos working with RO Middle School (formerly Dondero High School) to designate the WPA murals that are in the auditorium. Kathy Putnam suggested contacting former school board member Gary Briggs as he was instrumental in saving them.

7.c Orson Starr Open House

April 14 held Open House. In attendance were Don Chisholm and Molly McConnell, RO student studying history. Molly inquired about becoming a docent. Chair Alex Kerrigan has offered to mentor her. About 40 people visited. *(Note: there will be no May Open House due to second Sunday being Mothers Day and Civil War Day being hosted the following weekend Saturday, May 18, 2024).*

8. New Business

8.a June Open House

June Open House will be second Sunday, June 9, 2024.

9. Unfinished Business

9.a Cleaning and Maintenance

9.a.1 Roof

Shingles are rotting (cedar) and department of public services employees had to do some repair recently. It is likely the roof will need to be replaced. Chair Alex Kerrigan has spoken to Mike McGhee (DPS) regarding this possibility.

9.b Civil War Days

Saturday May 18 from 10am to 4pm.

Two cannons this year have been arranged by Rick Karlowksi. Staff Liaison Schwanger will speak to Chief Moore regarding having a patrol car at the Museum at 9:00a.m. to help with traffic for the few minutes it takes to back the cannons onto the property.

Patrick Andrus will get food - sandwiches, cookies, water, and lemonade at Costco.

Chair Alex Kerrigan will complete color flyer and send to Staff Liaison Schwanger to have the print shop make copies and to arrange RO Review advertisement for around the May 5-10 (see what edition comes out about 7-10 days prior to the event). There is also a text only flyer, Rick Karlowksi will forward for copies to be made.

Battlefield casualties from RO will be featured on placards for display.

Musicians will again be featured from 1:00 to 3:00p.m. They have requested \$200 fee. Motion by Nancy Robinson, support Patrick Andrus. Motion approved to pay the musicians a \$200 fee.

9.c Memorial Day Parade

Application was submitted to the city. Chair Alex Kerrigan asked for members who would like to march. Rick Karlowksi will try to arrange to have Pat the Blind Horse, who is a Belgium Workhorse to march with the group.

9.d Merger with Royal Oak Historic Society

It will be a positive thing as long as the funding can be verified by the city. Big hurdle is knowing the objective of how this will look at the end. A lot of the artifacts could benefit from being moved between the two facilities and help by having some sensitive artifacts in the RO Historic Museum (fire station). because of climate issue at the Orson Starr House Museum.

9.e Inventory

Chair Alex Kerrigan is working on this with docent at the RO Historic Museum (fire station).

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the April 24, 2024, Historical Commission Meeting.

Moved by: Kathy Putnam

Seconded by: Nancy Robinson

Motion Adopted