



# Royal Oak

Minutes

## Royal Oak Historical Commission Meeting

May 22, 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  
Isaac Wolf

Absent: Katie McEachren

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### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Roll Call

### 3. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made to approve the May 22, 2024 Historical Commission Meeting Agenda.

Moved by: Kathy Putnam  
Seconded by: Patrick Andras

Motion to approve the May 22, 2024 Historical Commission Meeting.

Motion Adopted

### 4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve the April 24, 2024 Historical Commission Meeting Minutes with correction to the attendance as member Katie McEachren was not present at the April 24 2024 meeting.

Moved by: Kathy Putnam  
Seconded by: Nancy Robinson

Motion to approve the April 24, 2024 Historical Commission Meeting Minutes as corrected.

Motion Adopted

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

### **6.a Flyer Paranormal Donation Check**

Flyer Paranormal check for the first ghost tours of the season in the amount of \$577.50 was presented by treasurer Rick Karlowski.

### **6.b Civil War Day Expense Reimbursement Approvals**

Civil War Day has excellent attendance with 80 guests who signed in, many singular sign-in for entire family and also many guests attended but did not sign-in. Treasurer Rick Karlowski presented list of expenditures he has to date for re-enactors and entertainment at CWD. He has all of Chair Kerigan's reimbursement receipts and just needs one more receipt to add for the lunch (given to him at meeting by Patrick Andras) and requests to double-check re-enactors. Motion was made to approve all expenditures and reimbursements for Civil War Day not to exceed \$1500.00 total.

Moved by: Kathy Putnam  
Seconded by: Isaac Wolf

Motion to approve the expenditures and reimbursements for Civil War Day total not to exceed \$1500.00.

Motion Adopted

## **7. Historic and Community Group Reports**

### **7.a Interclub**

Kathy Putnam offered to attend the June Interclub Meeting with or for Chair Kerrigan. The attendance at the Interclub has not rebounded to pre-Covid but the group is helpful to know what is happening around the city and to get the word out about the historical commission events.

### **7.b Historic District Study Committee**

Patrick Andras reported that Gary Briggs had attended the May 16th Historic District Study Committee meeting per the idea of Kathy Putnam. He spoke for over 40 minutes and the HDSC members were very grateful. He will stay in contact with them and provide the entire video of the grass roots effort that saved the murals. He stated the current version of the

video the HDSC has viewed was only half and the second half actually shows the restoration work as it was happening. SL Schwanger will send the link to the current video to HC members and update when receive the full video.

SL Schwanger also updated members about the HDSC and Historic District Commission task force regarding the newly designated Vinsetta Bridges Historic Districts. One of the bridges is in quite bad shape, crumbling as a result of lack of maintenance and a landscaping truck striking it earlier this year. The task force did a tour, took pictures, has contacted a firm to do 2D and 3D imagining to assess the condition of each bridge. Once this is completed, it will allow the task force to determine a scope of work for restoration and begin to explore grant opportunities to fund the restoration projects.

#### **7.c    Orson Starr Open House**

Civil War Day was conducted with no open house in May therefore. See treasurer report above.

### **8.    New Business**

#### **8.a    Fence Painting**

Chair Kerrigan was contacted by a boy scout troop 1610 who will paint the picket fence on the property this Saturday May 25th. SL Schwanger will meet Chair Kerrigan to purchase the paint and supplies for the scouts to complete the work.

#### **8.b    180 Year Birthday**

Chair Kerrigan explained the HC had begun plans for the 175th Anniversary of the OSHM but they were interrupted by Covid 19 Pandemic. The 180th will be in the fall of 2025 and ideas were discussed. Patrick Andras suggested bringing back the Cowbell Run/Walk. SL Schwanger said the police department could probably create an 1.8 mile route through the neighborhood that would not create unnecessary road closures and provide the safest space. Isaac Wolf suggested ending back the OSHM and having a birthday cake. Discussion will continue at next meeting.

### **9.    Unfinished Business**

#### **9.a    Memorial Day**

Chair Kerrigan stated there would only be three members available to march in the Royal Oak Memorial Day Parade due to schedule conflicts with members and friends/family who would typically march with the HC. It was decided by consensus to officially withdraw from the parade and SL Schwanger will communicate this to Community Engagement Specialist

Judy Davids who is organizing the parade route with the Veterans Events Committee.

**9.b Merger with Royal Oak Historic Society**

Chair Kerrigan reported she, Rick Karlowski, and Patrick Andras had met with Susan Barkman, assistant to the city manager, with members of the Royal Oak Historical Society in continuing discussions about merging the two groups under the 501(c)3 of the Historical Society and dissolving the HC. Grants manager Jill Martin also attended to speak about possible funding options through grants. The issue still remains unclear with funding remaining the concern for both organizations.

**9.c Roof**

Chair Kerrigan reported department of public services personnel had been out to repair / patch areas of the roof. It is apparent the roof will need full replacement soon. The city is scheduled to conduct facilities assessments for all structures. SL Schwanger will inquire as to the schedule of the assessment. The roof repair may need to be done sooner to prevent water damage to the OSHM. The sprinklers are also not working at this time and Chair Kerrigan has made DPS aware of this.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24p.m.

Moved by: Patrick Andras  
Seconded by: Kathy Putnam

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24p.m.

Motion Adopted