



NOVI HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NOVEMBER Minutes
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
Novi Library Local History

CALL TO ORDER: 7:04 pm

ATTENDANCE: Kim Nice, Sharon Larson, Kathy Crawford, Kelly Kasper, Rae Manela and Debbie Wrobel

ABSENT: Dan Pierce

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Sue Grifor, Randy Van Wagnen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: APPROVED w/ amendments

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES: APPROVED

TREASURER’S REPORT- Kim

NOVI HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT - 2023/2024 Fiscal Year

	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES Through November 15, 2023	
Display Cabinet Exhibit	\$ 500	\$	(37.67)
Marketing/Brochures/Engage/Name Badges	\$ 900	\$	-
Equipment/Supplies/Office/Upgrades/Repairs	\$ 9,000	\$	(34.55)
Program/Speaker Fees	\$ 1,200	\$	(300.00)
Storage Unit	\$ 2,900	\$	(2,652.00)
Acquisition (Books/Materials)	\$ 1,500	\$	(1,200.00)
Conference/Continuing Education	\$ 1,200	\$	(50.00)
Legal Fees	\$ 500	\$	-
Special Projects Examples: Villa Barr, Photography, Veterans Sign, Oral Histories, City/Community Events, Motor City Marker	\$ 4,000	\$	(10,099.62)
Total:	\$ 21,700	\$	(14,373.84) \$ 7,326
Equitable Projects	Expenditures	Revenue Received	
Villa Barr Book Sales YTD		\$0.00 YTD	
Wreaths Across Novi Project	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 897.38	carryover funds

Treasurer’s Report: APPROVED

LIBRARY LIAISON REPORT:

Library Liaison Update: Rae Manela read a letter from Betty Lang announcing she is retiring as the Historical Commission Library Liaison. Rae Manela has been appointed as the new liaison. The Commission is looking at ways to recognize Betty for her years of service. Ideas include naming the room after her or placing a plaque on the door.

Library Closed: The library will be closed on June 19, 2024. Therefore, the June Historical Commission meeting will be moved to 6-26-2024.

History Room Update: Two people were in last week. One was looking for school district maps and was sent to Oakland County Schools. A WWII group contacted Rae Manela to discuss a program for Farmington, but the Commission would prefer to do one on Novi.

History Room Office Hours:

Monday, Nov. 20 (6 – 8 p.m.): Kelly Kasper and Kim Nice

Monday, Dec. 4 (Noon – 2 p.m.): Sharon Larson and Debbie Wrobel

Monday, Dec. 18 (6 – 8 p.m.): Kelly Kasper and Kim Nice

Monday, Jan. 1- LIBRARY CLOSED

Monday, Jan. 15 (6 – 8 p.m.): Sharon Larson and Kim Nice

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Open Seat on Commission: There is an opening on the Novi Historical Commission. Interviews are expected to take place sometime in December. Two commission members are also up for another term.

One Room School House Program Recap: The program was well attended with feedback varying. The speaker seemed a bit unprepared with music failing and other issues.

2023 – 2024 History Speakers Series:

“A City Called Midnight” speaker series was held on Sept. 21. The event was well attended, and the speaker did a good job keeping the audience engaged.

The remaining events scheduled for 2023 – 2024 CY year:

- Thursday, March 21, 2024 – Women of Michigan’s Capitol
- Thursday, April 18, 2024 – History of Detroit Coney Island
- Thursday, May 16, 2024 – Survivors, Victims & Legacies

Wreaths Across Novi: The event took place on Nov. 11. Numerous city officials, commission members and guests attended. Commissioners Rae Manela, Kathy Crawford and Kim Nice spoke. VWF chapter 1519 played taps. Representatives from the Boy Scouts Troop 407 helped lay the wreaths. Overall, a great event for the 5th anniversary. Ornaments were well received. Nice job to Kim and Kelly for all their hard work to organize the event.

Walton Wood Tour: Feedback was that the group really enjoyed the tour. In fact, Tom Coles from Walton Woods said the group loved it. They would like to do another tour again soon.

January Elections: Commissioners were asked to think about the positions they would like to hold next year. Elections will take place at the January meeting.

Program Development: Need a new person to review and secure programs for 2024 and beyond. Presentations are already scheduled for March, April and May.

Cemetery Sign Correction: Jeff Muck is looking at possible solutions for fixing the spelling error on the Knapp Cemetery sign.

ONGOING PROJECTS:

Holiday History at Lakeshore: The event takes place on Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. Commissioners Kathy, Kim and Sharon to work on the program. Kathy will put flier on Facebook page.

Miniature Project: Washtenaw Community College professor Randy Van Wagnen reviewed how much progress his students had made on the project. A new meeting with the Novi Historical Commission will be planned to review the work. Randy also suggested that a future project could be a miniature of the Walled Lake Amusement Park.

NEW BUSINESS:

2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget: Kim presented a draft of the new budget to the team. Some changes were decided and approved. Kim to send the final copy to Julie Farkas.

Donation: A donor reached out to Kathy Crawford about a plate of the Old Methodist Church that they would like to donate to the Commission. The Commission agreed to accept and keep the object as part of its history collection.

Social Media: The Commission will explore being more active on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The Commission nominated Daniel Pierce to investigate the amount of work and effort that needs to be done to accomplish this project. Rae to report out on current info and share admin info for all accounts.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEXT MEETING: Dec. 20, 2023, at 7 p.m.

ADJOURN: 8:40 p.m.