A regularly scheduled meeting of the Historical Commission for the City of Rochester was called to order at 7:06 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2015 by Chairman William Pietrzyk, at 400 Sixth Street, Rochester, Michigan.

PRESENT: Pietrzyk, Bates, Bloomingdale, G. Bothwell, E. Bothwell, Dziurman, Hopaluk, Johnson, Kemler, Reddish, Saverino, Suhr and Wilson

ABSENT: Estereicher, Michalka and Pouls

Others Present: None

Approval of April 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes:

The Rochester Historical Commission considered the minutes of the regular meeting of April 23, 2015.


Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Saverino distributed a final copy of the March 31, 2015 Treasurer’s report approved at the April meeting, noting it reflected the changes made at that meeting.

He presented the Treasurer’s Report for month end April 30, 2015, and noted that three line item totals were highlighted to reflect the adjustments approved at the April meeting to move $3,000 from the operating budget to the capital budget. He noted that the report balances to the City’s ledger, reflecting a year-to-date grand total of expenses of $24,348.18. He mentioned that this was the total to be reflected on page 2 of the report, and that the total listed in the printed handout
was a typographical error and would be corrected. He added that he expected one additional item to post from the City’s accounts.

Discussion ensued regarding the amount remaining in this year’s budget allocated for the Historic Districts Study Committee. It was noted that City Council is aware of the potential funding needs for the Historic Districts Study Committee, and further discussion on the topic would be taken up later with that agenda item.

Chairperson Pietrzyk noted that he submitted the cash box from the Greater Rochester Heritage Days to Treasurer Saverino for him to tally the receipts.

Treasurer Saverino reported that income from sales during the Greater Rochester Heritage Days totaled $72.00. He noted that this would be turned in as cash received and reflected in the upcoming month’s report.

Moved by Bates, seconded by Kemler to accept the Treasurer’s Report for April 30, 2015 as presented. Receipts to be submitted to the City for reimbursement. YES: Pietrzyk, Bates, Bloomingdale, E. Bothwell, G. Bothwell, Dziurman, Hopaluk, Johnson, Kemler, Reddish, Saverino, Suhr and Wilson. NO: None. ABSENT: Estereicher, Michalka and Pouls.

Secretary’s Report:

Secretary G. Bothwell noted that she had printed minutes for the archival binder. She requested an update on the status of acquiring the artifacts found while digging for the parking structures.

Chairperson Pietrzyk responded he sent a note to City Manager Jaymes Vettraino, and Manager Vettraino responded that he would ensure that a box of items found would be turned over to Member Pouls. Chairperson Pietrzyk stated that as Member Pouls is not in attendance tonight, he will contact her to find out if she received the items.

Communications:

Member Hopaluk noted that no communications were received.

RHC Committee Liaison Reports:

A. Archives and Accessories.
   Member Pouls was not in attendance.

B. Cemetery Advisory Committee.
   Chairperson Pietrzyk stated that City Clerk Lee Ann O'Connor is aware that the Commission will most likely expend its remaining budget and will not be able to contribute additional funds to the Cemetery for this budget year.

   Member Johnson commented that the Cemetery looked very nice during the recent Memorial Day activities.

C. Downtown Development Authority.
Member Hopaluk distributed a report, noting that much of the discussion at the last meeting centered around the parking structures, and the new Mini Market event happening on the third Thursday of every month from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Lions Club Park. She mentioned that the DDA members had positive comments regarding the Greater Rochester Heritage Days. She added that Dr. Pierre Atallah stated that he was happy to support the event and invited Commission members and guests to use his parking lot.

D. Greater Rochester Heritage Days.
Member Hopaluk reported that the Heritage Days event enjoyed beautiful weather. She commented that the advertising helped boost attendance. She passed around a mailer from State Representative Michael Webber that listed events and included the Heritage Days. She mentioned that she would pen a note to State Representative Webber thanking him for including the Heritage Days in the publication. She reported that out of 1,000 flags purchased for the event, 810 were distributed.

Treasurer Saverino reported that he received a $371.00 invoice for the flags, which he would submit for payment. He noted that the Commission approved the expenditure last month. He added that the Cemetery’s flag invoice was $389.23.

Member Johnson stated that Fox2 Detroit reporters visited the Heritage Days on Saturday morning and featured it on their program. She commented that many people visiting in the afternoon stated that they saw the event featured on the morning program.

Member Hopaluk commented that Members Johnson and Wilson worked very hard on the event.

Member Wilson stated that Member Hopaluk should be commended for her efforts as she has worked very hard all year long on the Heritage Days.

Member Johnson noted that the committee members begin work in August and put a significant amount of time in planning the Heritage Days. She commented that she would hope that everyone on the Commission would become involved in the Heritage Days.

It was noted that Council members were encouraged to come down and support the event.

E. Historic District Study Committee.
Member Dziurman reported that four firms responded to the request for proposal for consultant for the review of potential Historic District properties, and were interviewed on May 22, 2015. It was noted that proposed pricing ranged from $35,168 to $39,775 for the study of all 54 properties.

Secretary Bothwell noted that the selection committee’s decision for a recommendation to Council was unanimous.

It was noted that Council will be asked to award the consulting contract to the selected firm at the June 8, 2015 Council Meeting.
Member Dziurman noted that he believes that additional monies will be needed over what was originally suggested. He commented that the Study Committee will also be undertaking the photographic requirements. He stated that the Study Committee should have the submissions ready for the Planning Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the State boards in September. He commented that the Study Committee is anticipating that everything will be ready for a final vote in November. He mentioned that there has not yet been a decision on the opt-in and opt-out process and when that would occur.

Member Wilson questioned whether the interviews included questions regarding the use of the Oakland Regional Historic Sites (ORHS) database.

Member Dziurman confirmed that it was, and noted that it was also included in the request for proposal.

Member Wilson commented that he would like to report to the Rochester Avon Historical Society how much money that the ORHS saved the City.

Secretary Bothwell commented that each bidder noted familiarity with the site.

Treasurer Saverino questioned whether a proposal for any additional funding necessary would be submitted to Manager Vettraino prior to the June meeting.

Member Dziurman responded that he would speak with Manager Vettraino tomorrow regarding funding items.

F. Planning Commission.
Member Dziurman stated that he was unable to attend the last Planning Commission Meeting and had no report. He mentioned that he had concerns regarding work done to a patio area in front of the property at Walnut and Third. He commented that the outside patio includes a significant amount of wood which is going to be stained dark brown. He expressed concern that this type of wood could weather badly in a short period of time; however, he noted that the structure could be removed later.

Secretary G. Bothwell expressed concern regarding two properties on North Main which could be up for demolition at some point. She commented that right now questions on the ownership of title are delaying any action on the property. She noted that nearby property owner and developer Vito Pampalona has expressed his opinion that the home on the corner near his property should not be removed.

G. Museum.
Chairperson Pietrzyk reported that the Museum Feasibility Study is moving along very well. He noted that Member Bloomingdale will be asked to develop a cost to refurbish an existing space.

Member Bloomingdale distributed a drawing which he stated represents a conversation starter on a mock floor plan for a museum.
Discussion ensued regarding the various spaces depicted in the mock floor plan.

Member Dziurman questioned whether a Mission Statement for the Museum had been developed.

Chairperson Pietrzyk responded that it will be a part of the Feasibility Study. He reported that he made a presentation of the Historical Commission’s significant accomplishments to City Council last Tuesday. He noted that the Mayor asked if the Commission will be hiring a consultant, and he stated that he responded that this would occur when the Feasibility Study was approximately 80 percent complete. He explained that the next phase would be to develop a business plan, and he commented that costs for repurposing an existing building will be needed.

He stated that the draft Study will be presented to the Commission once completed. After that, a consultant would be retained to review and suggest revisions. He added that Council expressed interest and feels that the Commission is on the right path.

Member Bloomingdale noted that he might have to leave the meeting early, and suggested that 339 Oak be discussed now instead of later in the agenda. He stated that the new owner plans to tear the structure down, and he commented that he stopped by and gave the person tending to the estate his card and asked the new owners to contact him. He stated that he would like to see the structure moved somewhere, and suggested that the history of the structure be researched.

Member Wilson noted that the structure has been changed to the point where it is not considered historic.

Member Dziurman noted that once a Historic Commission is formed, that body would have the decision on historic sites.

Member Bloomingdale stated that he reviewed the property for a new roof about ten years ago, and he stated that he was amazed that the structure’s main beams were hand-hewn mortise and tenon. He noted that underneath the work that was done, the structure is close to original. He commented that if he could move the structure to one of his properties and restore it, he would.

Unfinished and New Business:

A. Organizational Memberships List with Assigned Point of Contact
   A list was distributed of the various organizations and memberships with Commission point of contacts. It was noted that members signed up for three of the organizations on the list; however, three remained.

   Member Hopaluk volunteered to be point of contact for the Oakland County Historical Resources, as she already receives the emails.

   Member Wilson volunteered to be point of contact for the Oakland Regional Historic Sites/RAHS.
Member Hopaluk suggested that Member Pouls be named point of contact for the American Association for State and Local History.

Chairperson Pietrzyk noted that he would contact Member Pouls to ask if she would be the contact for that organization.

B. Updated 2015 Significant Accomplishments.
   (Discussed above).

C. Annual Review of RHC By-Laws.
Chairperson Pietrzyk noted that as Member Pouls was not in attendance, discussion of the proposed By-Laws change she proposed would be deferred to the next meeting.

D. DUR Publication.
Member Wilson suggested that the DUR Publication could be used as the publication for the 200th Anniversary Celebration.

Member Reddish stressed that the publication should be completed before the 200th Anniversary activities commence.

Member Wilson commented that the publication must be sent out for proofreading to ensure being completed by then. He suggested that the 200th Anniversary Committee consider the publication.

E. Storage Unit Cubic Feet.
Member Bloomingdale noted that he would estimate that a storage unit of at least 1,200 square feet would be needed.

Discussion ensued regarding items currently at Member Wilson’s home. Member Wilson noted that discussions he and his wife have had regarding a Museum included that an agreement would be developed that the items at his home would at some point in time be donated to the Historical Society, which would then be loaned to a cooperative museum to be run between the Historical Commission and the Historical Society.

Chairperson Pietrzyk commented that these items need to be preserved for years to come. He stated that hopefully the day will come when the Commission will have a museum and a joint agreement can be developed to preserve history.

Member Hopaluk commented that temporary storage should include items that members currently have in their homes such as publications.

Chairperson Pietrzyk responded that this storage need is what Member Bloomingdale has been working on, and would require a climate controlled space. He stated that he saw as a need until the Commission is able to secure a building. He commented that he would see the Commission reaching an agreement with the storage firm on Avon Road and would request Member Bloomingdale secure a formal cost estimate from them to rent a storage unit on a yearly basis.
F. Special Projects.
- 200th Anniversary – Member Bates reported that the Committee had a meeting this evening. Discussions for events include incorporating a Daffodil Festival, Quilts, Trolley Tours, and that a Homecoming Weekend is tentatively set for August 12-13, 2017. Residents will be encouraged to plant daffodils. She noted that a golf outing was discussed. She reported that a draft logo for the event has been developed; however, it is still in a preliminary stage. She added that the Committee plans to hold its meetings on the second Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Member Wilson questioned whether the Heritage Days is to be included as an event for the celebration.

Member Bates responded that it is. She added that walking tours were also discussed.

Member Wilson commented that the Committee should not count on his participation in walking tours. He stated that another group expected him to do a walking tour; however, he already had other plans for that day and could not participate.

Discussion ensued regarding the Sundial project. It was noted that the City Beautiful Commission should work with the Historical Commission for its input on the sundial project.

MEMBER BLOOMINGDALE EXITED AT 8:21 P.M.

- Banner/Way Marker – Council Liaison Ray was not in attendance. It was noted that the banners should be installed shortly.

Member Johnson suggested that the Commission be informed when they would be installed.

Treasurer Saverino noted that the City is working on securing the proper placement of the sign at the Mill.

E. Miscellaneous.
- Chairperson Saverino reported that he received a dues invoice for $75.00 for the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Moved by Reddish, seconded by Hopaluk, approve the payment of the invoice in the amount of $75.00 for the National Trust for Historic Preservation membership. YES: Pietrzyk, Bates, E. Bothwell, G. Bothwell, Dziurman, Hopaluk, Johnson, Kemler, Reddish, Saverino, Suhr and Wilson. NO: None. ABSENT: Bloomingdale, Estereicher, Michalka and Pouls.

- Member Johnson questioned whether Council took up the item to convert her appointment to Alternate Member and Treasurer Saverino to a regular member.

Secretary G. Bothwell responded that Council made that change at their Tuesday meeting.
- A list of current membership was distributed. Chairperson Pietrzyk noted that Tuesday’s change will be reflected and the list updated.

- A discussion ensued regarding the recent sale of Par Pharmaceuticals. It was mentioned that should anyone see any activities regarding the historic barns on the property, they should let Commission members know.

The next Historical Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Pachla, Recording Secretary

Minutes Incorporate the Treasurer’s Report as of 4/30/2015.

Minutes approved as presented at the June 23, 2015 Meeting of the Rochester Historical Commission.