



NOVI HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DECEMBER Minutes
Wednesday, December 17, 2025
Novi Library Board Room

CALL TO ORDER: 7:07 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Kim Nice, Sharon Larson, Debbie Wrobel, Randy Van Wagnen, and Kathy Crawford, Kelly Kasper

ABSENT: Dan Pierce

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Rae Manela (Library Liaison), Sue Grifor and Sarah Offerman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: APPROVED

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES: APPROVED

NOVI HISTORICAL COMMISSION FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT - 2025/2026 Fiscal Year				
		BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	
			Thru Dec 17, 2025	
Display Cabinet Exhibit		\$ 700.00	\$ (53.98)	
Marketing/Brochures/Engage/Name Badges		\$ 900.00	\$ (182.50)	
Equipment/Supplies/Office/Upgrades/Repairs		\$ 3,000.00	\$ (70.23)	
Program/Speaker Fees		\$ 1,700.00	\$ (543.07)	
Storage Unit		\$ 2,750.00	\$ (2,220.00)	
Acquisition (Books/Materials/Subscriptions)		\$ 2,800.00	\$ (50.00)	
Conference/Continuing Education		\$ 1,300.00	\$ (32.00)	
Legal Fees		\$ 700.00	\$ -	
Special Project Items				
Betty Lang Internships			\$ -	
Oral Histories			\$ -	
City/Community Event			\$ (2,017.51)	
Four Corners Project			\$ (250.49)	
Photography			\$ -	
Special Projects Total		\$ 5,500.00	\$ (2,268.00)	
TOTAL:		\$ 19,350.00	\$ (5,419.78)	\$ 13,930.22
Equitable Projects		Expenditures	Revenue Rec'd	
Villa Barr Book Sales YTD				
Wreaths Across Novi Project		\$ 1,985.39	\$ 2,450.00	

Treasurer's Report: APPROVED

There was a quarterly payment for ENGAGE. The financial statement needs to be amended for 2024/2025 FY report because ENGAGE has been giving the Historical Commission our invoice later.

LIBRARY LIAISON REPORT:

History Room Office Hours:

Monday, Jan. 5 (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.): Debbie Wrobel and Kathy Crawford

Monday, Jan. 19 (6-8 p.m.): LIBRARY CLOSED

Monday, Feb. 2 (10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.): Debbie Wrobel and Kim Nice

Monday, Feb. 16 (6-8 p.m.): Kelly Kasper

Samuel White House: The Library continues to get more inquiries on the Samuel White house.

Library Intern: Sarah, the Betsy Lang Historical Commission Intern presented her end of year internship project to the Commission.

Library Holiday Schedule: Rae mentioned the Novi Public Library would be closed for Christmas and New Year's.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Re-Appointment and Recruitment: Daniel has decided he will not seek re-appointment since he has been experiencing an increase in work travel demands. Daniel has offered to serve as a volunteer. The commission voted unanimously to approve his role as a volunteer.

Four Corners Presentation: Kathy Crawford, Kim Nice, Sharon Larson and Debbie Wrobel presented the history of Novi's Four Corners and Matt Moeren's General Store to the Fox Run Women's Group on Wednesday, Nov. 26. Attendance, in person, was a little lower due to the holiday. The presentation was shown on residents' televisions.

Community Impact Day (May 13): The informational meeting for Community Impact Day is scheduled for January 15, 2026. The Chamber said they are reaching out to everyone to get involved. They want people to submit projects within the community that would improve Novi. The Commission discussed Wreath across Novi as qualifying for the criteria. Kim, Debbie and Rae will attend the meeting.

Summer 2026 Program: "Dig Up History" Dig Up History: This is going to be a program for families and kids (all ages). The proposed date is in July on a Saturday or Sunday and it will be a two-hour program with an anthropologist to discuss/demonstrate an archaeological dig for historical items throughout specific periods of time in Novi. Kim suggested that maybe the Genealogy group could be involved. Kim, Randy, Sharon, and Rae set up a meeting to discuss on Jan. 13 at Novi Public Library in the Local History Room for the meeting.

Villa Barr Presentation: Kathy Crawford will be presenting in Wixom at 7 p.m. on Feb. 16.

Intern Presentation: The fall intern, Sarah Offerman, presented her work to the Commissioners. Within her internship, she processed 750 photos. Her goals were to organize, digitize, improve the metadata quality, and prepare them for OMEKA. She added the Novi Special collection to OMEKA. She said she feels like she gained a lot of valuable hands-on experience. The community impact of her work is that the collections will now be available to the public online, and the collections are preserved and protected.

Program Flyers for 2026: Flyers are completed through June 2026. Kelly will continue to work on them moving forward.

Did You Know Project: The Novi Historical Commission may need to create a new Facebook page to allow additional access to other Commissioners.

Another Miniature Project: The Commission is thinking of putting together another miniature project. This could include a Front porch. The group also discussed the need to secure the existing project better as it doesn't travel well.

ONGOING PROJECTS:

Display Case: Northville Genealogy Group has a nice display currently - but note that the light in the display isn't working. Kim said she will talk to Keith and get an ETA to get it fixed.

Villa Barr Book Sales: No new book sales.

Omeka: No new update.

America 250MI Grant Opportunity: Commission will revisit after Kim does some research.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURN: 8:29 p.m.