



# NOVI HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 7pm  
Novi Library History Room

**Call to Order:** 7:05pm

**Attendance:** Rachel Manela, Kathy Crawford, John MacInnis, Dhara Sanghavi, Tom Alexandris

**Introductions of guests:** Dave Carter (Cemetery Restoration), Sue Grifor (Volunteer)

**Approval of Agenda:** ALL APPROVED

**Approval of Minutes-September 2017:** Tom, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dhara

**Communications:** NONE

## **SPECIAL GUEST- Dave Carter**

### **Discussion of the cemetery restoration**

First was involved through his own genealogical research into his father's relatives who fought in the Revolutionary War.

Took some classes in Indiana on how to restore headstones

City of Rochester was the first one he did, he has done this work for 17 communities

He started restoring the Novi Cemetery in 2012

-most are marble but some are limestone

Every stone is carved differently

Knows of someone in Monroe who can do reengaging

Best way is to take a mirror and reflect the sunlight to see what is on the marker

**Kathy Crawford:** "What was the most unusual thing you've come across in the Novi Cemetery?"

**Dave:** The person who did the restoration before him used a lot of concrete

**Kathy Crawford:** How can we find graves/headstones that are buried

**Dave:** Probe the ground

**Kathy Crawford:** How do you go about cleaning the headstones?

**Dave:** Water, Nylon brush and you can also add some ammonia. Also, you can use biocide which works overtime to get deep into the porous stone to kill/minimize buildup of lichen

Putting the stones back together, is a whole other process, once marble begins the sugaring process, it breaks easily. Have to make sure the pieces are clean, score the stones and fit them together with epoxy



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Three main reasons headstones break:

Vandalism

Falling Tree limbs

Lawnmowers

**Kathy Crawford:** Any immediate recommendations?

**Dave:** The road and deciding where benches should go, thinning of the trees

**Kathy Crawford:** Do you think the entrance arch is original

**Dave:** Yes, probably

Discussion about the mapping of the cemetery

Is it adequate?

How much as the city spent so far?

We need to develop a plan for the cemetery

Pathways, park benches, trash receptacles

Fence/scenic overlook for the back of the cemetery

Lights

Need for a ballpark figure of refurbishing cost for the budget

**Tom:** How much of the cemetery has already been completed?

**Dave:** About 65% of the restoration has already been refurbished

**Rachel:** What's the continuing maintenance cost?

**Dave:** It will have to be developed

There are about 900 plots/markers/obelisks

We have over 40 veteran markers

Do we have a paupers section in the cemetery?



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## November Office Hours

Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 12-2pm: Rachel Manela

Nov. 20 6-8pm: Dhara Sanghavi

## Library Liaison Report, Betty Lang

Program contact, local author

Our website has been updated

No one came for document donation day

Roland Eaton, passed away a few years ago, his daughter came in with materials of his. Betty said the local history room would accept any information related to Novi

Donation through John MacInnis:

Tom Johnson, information about his family and property 1834-1945

Land grant originally from John Quincy Adams

Corner of Novi Rd and 9 mile (straddled Novi Road)

Book for Volunteers

Need to record when we are in the Local History room

## Wrap-up

### Second Grade at Parkview Community Project Sept. 28

Rachel Manela and Dhara Sanghavi had a good time at the elementary school

Presented to 7 small groups

Talked about family trees, and different historic toys

Potential future projects Always need to be focused on 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level

### Discovering Michigan, A to Z Barbara Vandermolen Sept. 28

Over 30 people in attendance

It was fun and engaging

### Tollgate Pumpkin Fest Oct. 8

Kathy Crawford was there in the morning

Rachel Manela was there in the evening

We didn't have much visibility

Re-emphasized our need for a Banner

### Ghost Towns of Michigan Alan Naldrett Oct. 19

Over 30 people in attendance

A great presenter

### Michigan Historical Society Workshop Sept. 29

Both Kathy Crawford and Betty Lang took part.

About Doing interviews/Oral Histories

CSX Railroad retaining wall



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## **Council Request regarding Veterans**

### **Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park, Tom**

Predominant method for including people on monuments is either based on town of birth or what is listed on your enlistment papers

Whatever we decide, that is what we have to stick to for any future cases.

We cannot proceed with research until the city determines the eligibility requirements

## **City of Novi 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration meeting, Kim Nice**

Kim was absent tonight, she will give her report at the next meeting

Kim told Kathy Crawford said a new meeting was planned for Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> and in January they plan on presenting a plan to City Council in early Jan. 2018 and the actual date of the Anniversary is Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 1969.

Thoughts about a formal gala for the beginning of the year (2019)

Kathy Crawford plans on attending the next meeting

## **Senior Executive Club Luncheon-Walled Lake Amusement Park, Kathy**

Kathy Crawford will present the Walled Lake Amusement Park presentation in November

## **HISTORICAL COMMISSION PROGRAMS FOR FALL/SPRING: please note these on your calendar**

Flyers are now available that cover all of the 2017/2018 programs.

**Stories, Songs and Dances of the Voyageur ...Genot Picor Nov. 9**

**Thank God for Michigan and its Underground Railroad – Lois Keel Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

**Petticoat Patriots – Michigan Women's Hall of Fame March 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

**Detroit and the War of 1812: Border Crossings – Detroit Historical Society April 26<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

## **DISPLAY CABINET DOWNSTAIRS Volunteer Sue Grifor, Cabinet MANAGER**

### **Ideas for new displays**

Next program is not until February.

Perhaps we could do a display with historic/old toys for Christmas/Holidays

Perhaps each shelf could be different periods in history

Something fun

Yo-yos, pick up sticks, magnets, linkinlogs, legos, army men,

dolls, video games,

## **NEW BUSINESS/Other Business**

**Novi City Council presentation/annual report and budget request**

**Canopy tent with Historical Commission banner is needed**

**NEXT MEETING: NOTE: Wednesday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

**Adjourn: 8:45pm**