



NOVI HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May Minutes
Wednesday, May 15, 2024
Novi Library Local History

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 p.m.

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

ABSENT: NONE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: APPROVED

APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES: APPROVED

NOVI HISTORICAL COMMISSION	
2023/2024 Fiscal Year Budget	
General Fund 101	
Display Cabinet Exhibit	\$ 500
Marketing/Brochures/Engage/Shirts/Name Badges	\$ 900
Equipment/Supplies/Office/Upgrades/Repairs/Technology	\$ 9,000 New Micro Film Reader
Program/Speaker Fees	\$ 1,200
Storage Unit	\$ 2,900
Acquisition (Books/Materials/Subscriptions)	\$ 1,500
Conference/Continuing Education	\$ 1,200
Legal Fees	\$ 500
Special Projects	\$ 4,000
Examples: (Villa Barr, Photography, Veterans Sign, Oral Histories, City/Community Events, Motor City Marker)	
Total:	\$ 21,700

Treasurer’s Report: APPROVED – Budget was spent on Motor City Markers (\$600) as well as badges for new Commission members. Expenses were also approved for stickers and other expenditures for the Superhero Showcase. Two Villa Barr books were sold for \$40 that will be added to the budget.

LIBRARY LIAISON REPORT:

History Room Office Hours:

Mon., May 20 (6 – 8p.m.): Kelly Kasper and Randy Van Wagnen

Mon., June 3 (12 – 2p.m.): Sharon Larson and Debbie Wrobel

Mon., June 17 (6 – 8p.m.): Kelly Kasper and Kim Nice

**There are no history rooms hours for July and August.*

Librarians and Public Library Association: Rae shared information about a company called TheirStory (TheirStory.io). The company has created a platform to collect, preserve and publish oral histories. As the Commission continues to collect more oral histories, this company could help produce the pieces for long term preservation.

General Reminder: Should any Commissioner need anything from the Novi Library, please work through Rae. She is our library liaison and is our main point of contact.

May Program: Nearly 80 people are registered for the May historical commission program: “Titanic: Survivors, Victims & Legacies.” In addition to the large number of attendees for the program, there have been many people complimenting the display case promoting the program.

Microfilm Reader: The commission will vote on the new microfilm reader at the June meeting. Rae will, once again, present the information about the options for consideration.

June Historical Commission Meeting: The June meeting for the Novi Historical Commission is scheduled for June 26th as the library is closed on June 19 in observance of Juneteenth.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Upcoming Historical Programs:

- Thursday, May 16, 2024 – Survivors, Victims & Legacies
- Monday, June 10, 2024 – History of Detroit Coney Island

Kim Nice asked the Commissioners to think about any recommendations for changing office hours. If the Commission decides to change office hours, Rae will need to know by August.

Program Update: The April program was moved to June 10 because the speaker is having surgery. Kim is working with Novi Coney Island as a partner for the June event. The Novi Public Library will have a free raffle for two gift baskets at the event. Kim also mentioned that any speakers looking to sell books at a Historical Commission program, 10 percent of the sales has to be given to the library.

Villa Barr Book Sales: Kim would like to investigate the opportunity to put a Villa Barr book display at the front desk to help create awareness for the book. Kim also asked Commissioners to think of additional ideas on where the book should be sold.

City Superhero Showcase: Kelly and Randy presented a plan to have kids do a scavenger hunt with five questions about the city of Novi on it. The kids will have to scan five different historical landmark images via a QR code to learn about what it is and answer the question. Candy bars will be given to those finishing. Coloring pages will be offered to younger kids.

2024-2025 Speaker Series: Three programs have been booked for the 2024-2025 speakers series. They are:

- September 26 – Guardians of Michigan
- October 22 – Haunted Program
- November 14 or 21 – Great Lakes Storms of the Century
- March 20 – Belle Isle

Kim, Sharon and Debbie will continue to build out the series and provide an update at the next meeting. This includes a potential Abraham Lincoln re-enactor.

ONGOING PROJECTS:

Document Donation Day: Document Donation Day will take place from 1- 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 inside the Local History Room. Rae Manela will support the event and provide Commissioners with deeds of gifts. Kim Nice and Debbie Wrobel will also support.

Tombstone Images: Kim worked with Julie Farkas to figure out the best way to pay the members of the Novi Photography Club interested in helping take images of the Novi Road cemetery tombstones.

Summer Display Case: The Commission is preparing to have a display on how Novi got its name. Kim and Sue are working on ideas and collecting items.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 26 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURN: 8:27 p.m.