



**FARMINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2013**

Chairperson Myers called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Myers, Atkinson, Gundlach, Macdonald, Stacey, Weimar, Grattan, Bernath  
Excused: Harrison / Absent: None / Guest(s): B. Golden, K. Shay

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Gundlach, supported by Commissioner Atkinson, to approve the agenda as amended. (Addition of 'Don Munter Historical Commission Recognition' under 'Old Business.')

Motion carried: all ayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gundlach, supported by Commissioner Atkinson, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 28, 2013 as presented. Motion carried: all ayes

FINANCIAL REPORT

A financial report was not available. Commissioners discussed the following in relation to finances/fundraising:

- a) \$75 spent on two workshops.
- b) Overview of two accounts and explanation of how event funds raised are deposited for Gov. Warner Mansion capital projects.
- c) Friends of Gov. Warner Mansion now 501c3 approved as Michigan Historic Preservation non-profit public organization. Membership form handed out to Commissioners.
- d) Commissioner Stacey to join City of Farmington Grant Writing meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Historical Commission Secretary: Elected new Secretary, Commissioner Janet Macdonald, by acclamation to complete Don Munter's term. Motion carried: all ayes.
2. Warner Mansion Porch Party: Discussion of the joint Historical Commission/Historical Society hosted Warner Mansion June 13 Porch party resulted in agreement of the following:
  - a) Commissioners will volunteer as historical subject matter experts and wear 'Ask a Question' sign created by Chairperson Myers to engage public (i.e. 'Ask the preservationist/genealogist/quilter.')
  - b) Golden volunteered to dress as 'Governor Wisner' to provide additional entertainment/interactions with public.
  - c) Macdonald volunteered to photograph the public amongst Victorian silhouette props (currently housed in the Mansion.) Additional props may be top hat/bonnet.
  - d) Root-beer and Vernor's floats to be provided at Warner Mansion cost (approx. \$100 for average 50-60 attendees.)
3. Dick Carvell Service Award: A sub-committee of Commissioner's Gundlach, Weimar, Atkinson, and Bernath will convene to develop criteria/statement for award, and award details. Once agreed upon, Commission will present to City Council for approval.
4. EMU Historic Perseveration Grad Student Project: Commission reviewed Ted Ligibel's criteria and agreed the project was a valuable resource. Cataloging remainder of Mansion historical artifacts suggested as first area of support needed. Other project support areas to be identified each month and raised to EMU Director of Historic Preservation.

5. Historical Commission Communication/Marketing Proposals: Commissioners Macdonald and Stacey presented new, three-phased annual plan covering three channels (digital, print, public.) Plan approved by Commission. Sub-committee formed of Commissioner's Macdonald, Stacey, Myers. Stacey and Macdonald will begin digital design phase (i.e. Facebook, Pinterest, Farmington Historical Commission web-site.)
6. Main Street Meeting – Franklin: Commissioner Stacey attending, Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Registration funded by City of Farmington.
7. MHPN Fundraising Workshop – Flint: B. Golden and Commissioner Macdonald to attend full session, June 20-22. Registration funded by City of Farmington.

#### WARNER MANSION ACTIVITIES

Commissioner Bernath discussed the following:

1. Annual Fashion-Show almost sold out with six tickets left as of 4/25.
2. Two cable segments to be produced by N. Ebel and B. Golden for monthly programs about the mansion for public access TV channels 8 & 13. First segment introduces volunteers, and second covers Warnerettes which was recently taped.
3. Mansion open house a success with 104 attendees including 13 volunteers plus two quilters. Quilters asked to come back for two days during Founder's Festival.
4. Founder's Festival Mansion flea market looking for quality donations which can be brought during open house hours, or to porch parties. Volunteers can assist with picking up/delivering to some extent. Items such as jewelry are being sought. Pricing strategy should be revisited to increase sales (i.e. reduce prices only upon customer's request.)
5. Ron Campbell visited the mansion and conducted a formal evaluation. It could take up to a year for a final report. He suggested that the addition could be repaired, but which might necessarily cause some damage to existing wall-paper, etc. Or, it can be stabilized to last another 100 years or so, but this method would be less invasive to the existing structure that will be further damaged by raising the addition.
6. S. Halberstadt, C. Eudy, K. Grattan, S. Bernath conducted walk-through of mansion week of 4/15. Sue made list of prioritized repairs with some work to be completed by Commissioner Grattan. Repair list shared with Commissioners.
7. Surplus carriage house furniture being sold, approved by V. Pastue.
8. A mansion information table will be set-up during opening day of the Farmer's Market on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Theme is Kentucky Derby Day and volunteers are sought/asked to come dressed in theme. DDA and Walt Gajewski confirmed their participation.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Farmington Observer Historic District Articles: Commissioner Macdonald's article published April 7th. Macdonald to contact home-owners to reinstate articles with goal to have a new article published early May.
2. Historic District Walking Tour: Commission agreed upon fall walking tour and will confirm dates and begin planning shortly. Potential dates are September 7<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup>. Chairperson Myers offered to open her home.
3. Don Munter Historical Commission Recognition: Commissioners agreed to recognize Don at June 13 Porch Party and invite City Council and Don's wife. Commissioner Gundlach to plan recognition details.
4. Historic District Ordinance Proposal: Motion by Commissioner Grattan, supported by Commissioner Stacey, to have Chairperson Myers draft a proposal to update the current advisory ordinance to more encompassing review guidelines. (Based on State of Michigan Public Act 169 and 170, as amended.) Commissioners determined the need to understand if this can be done without a Study Committee. Chairperson Myers will verify when draft proposal presented to City Council. Motion carried: all ayes

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Myers at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted: J. Macdonald, Secretary