



Rochester Hills Minutes

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Rochester Hills Museum Foundation

*Bryan Barnett, Steven Fite, James Mallon, Stephanie Morita, Vern Pixley,
Katharine Rogers, Heather Sellick, Joe Snyder, Suzanne Wiggins;
Staff Advisor Pat McKay*

Foundation Mission: *The mission of the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation is to further the educational programs and purposes set forth by the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm.*

Museum Mission: *To enhance understanding of the past through interpreting, preserving and collecting the history of the greater Rochester area for present and future generations.*

Friday, February 19, 2021

7:30 AM

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen
Farm - Dairy Barn

The Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Regular Meeting was made available via video conference to limit the potential exposure of the public and staff to the COVID-19 virus.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson James Mallon called the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Board Meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Michigan Time via Zoom Teleconference.

ROLL CALL

- Present** 7 - Bryan Barnett, Steven Fite, James Mallon, Vern Pixley, Katharine Rogers, Heather Sellick and Suzanne Wiggins
- Absent** 2 - Stephanie Morita and Joe Snyder

Others Present:

*Pat McKay, Museum Manager
Cathy Fitzpatrick, Museum Program Coordinator*

In accordance with the provisions of the Act 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, as amended, the Open Meetings Act, the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Board Members present announced the city and state where they were currently:

*Chairperson Mallon attending from Rochester Hills, Michigan
Vice Chairperson Wiggins attending from Lakeview, Michigan
Secretary Katharine Rogers attending from Rochester Hills, Michigan
Dr. Steven Fite attending from Rochester, Michigan
Vern Pixley attending from Rochester, Michigan
Dr. Heather Sellick attending from Rochester, Michigan
Joe Snyder (entering at 7:40 a.m.) attending from Rochester Hills, Michigan
Mayor Bryan Barnett attending from Rochester Hills, Michigan*

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2020-0442 Approval of Minutes - Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Regular Meeting - August 21, 2020

Attachments: [082120 Museum Foundation Draft Minutes.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Pixley, seconded by Wiggins, that this matter be Approved as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Barnett, Fite, Mallon, Pixley, Rogers, Heather Sellick and Wiggins

Absent 2 - Morita and Snyder

Resolved, that the minutes of the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Regular Meeting held August 21, 2020 are approved as presented.

2021-0055 Approval of Minutes - Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Regular Meeting - November 20, 2020

Attachments: [112020 Draft Museum Foundation Minutes.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Pixley, seconded by Wiggins, that this matter be Approved as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Barnett, Fite, Mallon, Pixley, Rogers, Heather Sellick and Wiggins

Absent 2 - Morita and Snyder

Resolved, that the minutes of the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Regular Meeting held November 20, 2020 are approved as presented.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

2021-0056 Nomination and Election of Chairperson for 2021

Attachments: [Chairperson resolution.pdf](#)

*Katharine Rogers nominated James Mallon to continue as Chairperson.
The nomination was seconded by Dr. Sellick.*

A motion was made by Rogers, seconded by Heather Sellick, that this matter be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Barnett, Fite, Mallon, Pixley, Rogers, Heather Sellick and Wiggins

Absent 2 - Morita and Snyder

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation appoints James Mallon as

Chairperson for 2021.

2021-0057 Nomination and Election of Vice Chairperson for 2021

Attachments: [Vice Chairperson Resolution.pdf](#)

Dr. Sellick nominated Suzanne Wiggins to continue as Vice Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Rogers.

A motion was made by Heather Sellick, seconded by Rogers, that this matter be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Barnett, Fite, Mallon, Pixley, Rogers, Heather Sellick and Wiggins

Absent 2 - Morita and Snyder

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation appoints Suzanne Wiggins as Vice Chairperson for 2021.

2021-0058 Nomination and Election of Secretary for 2021

Attachments: [Secretary Resolution.pdf](#)

Vice Chairperson Wiggins nominated Katherine Rogers to continue as Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Dr. Sellick.

A motion was made by Wiggins, seconded by Heather Sellick, that this matter be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 7 - Barnett, Fite, Mallon, Pixley, Rogers, Heather Sellick and Wiggins

Absent 2 - Morita and Snyder

Resolved, that the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation appoints Katharine Rogers as Secretary for 2021.

(Joe Snyder entered at 7:40 a.m. from Rochester Hills, Michigan)

Present 8 - Bryan Barnett, Steven Fite, James Mallon, Vern Pixley, Katharine Rogers, Heather Sellick, Joe Snyder and Suzanne Wiggins

Absent 1 - Stephanie Morita

MUSEUM UPDATE

Pat McKay, Museum Manager, provided an update in the form of a brief presentation to recap the last year's activities via the Museum's Annual Report. He noted Cathy Fitzpatrick would also be providing a recap of the Museum's educational programs.

- *On Monday, March 16, 2020 the City of Rochester Hills, and most of the US, closed all buildings, for what was originally thought to be only two weeks. Instead, everything dramatically changed for almost a full year thus far.*
- *The Museum tried not to let the pandemic stop all of its activities. Fortunately, the weather cooperated with a great summer, and none of the outdoor programs were rained out. The indoor schoolhouse programs for third graders were*

cancelled so the Museum tried to supplement these with outdoor activities.

- The Museum still hosted ten weddings of less than 10 people each, down from 34 weddings normally; however, no wedding receptions were held.
- Most activities held were outside. Programs were run offsite outside at apartment complexes, senior centers and assisted living facilities. Wet and Wild Wednesdays still took place. Maintenance activities continued. Eagle Scout projects still took place.
- The Big Green 1949 Model A John Deere Tractor is scheduled for an engine overhaul. Targeted completion date is late May and it will be stored in the Equipment Barn.
- The last batch of the newspaper archives covering 1970-1999 was sent out to be digitized. By early summer the metadata files will be created and everything will be searchable online from 1872 to 1999.
- The quilters guild who normally meets at the Museum has been working to recreate some of the quilts for display that have been damaged over the years due to sunlight. The replicas are displayed while the originals are stored protected against fading.
- Outdoor programs were plentiful with the grounds the busiest they have ever been. Garden displays celebrated the 100th year of the Women's Suffrage Movement. This is a great tribute to the 120-member Rochester Garden Club who not only helps finance the gardens, irrigation system, supplies, and amenities, but provide sweat equity to make them beautiful. In return, with the exception of this past year and COVID limitations, the Museum hosts many of the Club's meetings.

Dairy Barn:

- The roof project in the Dairy Barn began the end of September. It was previously scheduled to go out for bid in March; however, COVID closed things down and the project went out for bid in August.
- Only a specific number of trusses could be taken out at any one time to protect the integrity of the walls, and they were not removed until the new trusses were on site. The roof portion of the project is approximately 95 percent complete, and some soffit work remains. Snow loads and wind were a definite concern for the integrity of the original roof.
- One challenge encountered during the construction was the stability of the foundation of the brick chimney, which was completely rebuilt in four days saving and reusing the original brick. The cupolas were rebuilt indoors by staffer Dean Schantz and reinstalled.
- Recurring problems with frozen pipes in the women's restroom were addressed during construction by installing sink heaters and adding insulation behind the walls.
- Cedar shake shingles should arrive on March 15, and once installed the ceiling can be put up on the inside.
- Furnaces are installed and in-place. The new generator will arrive in late March and will power the entire Dairy Barn and Equipment Barn.
- It is hoped that existing carpeting and flooring will survive construction.
- The project is on time and on budget.
- Estimated completion is May, and hopefully a C of O can be obtained to host the next Museum Foundation meeting in the building. The building will hopefully be open to the public in July.
- The challenge of returning a door back to the original window required finding

21 blocks that were 8"x8"x16". Blocks were eventually taken from areas of the building that are above walls and ceilings out of sight, and securing a number of similar blocks from a mortar supplier.

Equipment Barn Construction:

- Workers are applying the fieldstone to the side of the building. Originally built in 1924, it was demolished before it could collapse in 1999. Windows are on-site and need to be installed before the fieldstone can go up to the window locations.
- November, December and January provided some great weather and opportunity to get much work accomplished. Workers are working in groups of three so that if a COVID outbreak hits one crew, it does not stop construction.
- The upper level will store the gator, golf cart, garden supplies and hand tools, salt and program supplies. The upper level will also contain a heated workshop.
- The lower level will be open to the public and will have various farm implements on display.
- The Equipment Barn rebuild will allow the 1927 Bull Barn and 1911 Milk House to be open for public touring for the first time.

Exhibits:

New exhibits are coming to the Dairy Barn for the silo when it opens, including those on the Mastodon bones, Stoney Creek Village, flora and fauna, how the Museum started, Anishinabek Homeland, and Van Hoosen Farm awards. Flutter and Wow are making the display cases.

- Security cameras are being installed on the outside of the Calf Barn and also throughout the building and will be activated when the Dairy Barn is complete.

Mr. McKay provided a fund raising update for 2020, noting the following:

- Thanks go to the Museum Foundation Board members who along with the annual appeal provided enough funds to match Steve Taylor's \$15,000 challenge match.
- The Equipment Barn Fund at the Community Foundation received \$52,724 in 2020. Of that, \$37,615 came in during November/December. Over the last ten years, \$200,000 was raised and combined with the \$50,000 grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs to meet the \$250,000 match to the City for the Equipment Barn.
- Giving Tuesday and December Annual Appeal generated \$6,220 from 79 donors.
- The Membership Fund generated \$14,272 in 2020.

Cathy Fitzpatrick reviewed the Museum's educational programs, noting that staff have been able to work with RCS and their curriculum coordinator. Unfortunately the Museum could not host school field trips in the fall; however, plans are to cram all the field trips for the school year into this spring. Students will be able to watch half of the program pre-recorded, and the City's media team has done amazing work filming the virtual field trip. The live portion of the field trip will tend to the classroom needs and be done via live interaction through our iPad.

She commented that it has been a great format and a lot of fun to present these programs. She noted that surveys are sent to every single teacher after the programs and every teacher has indicated that they have been satisfied or highly-satisfied. They understand that this is the best that can be done under the circumstances and cannot wait until they can return on-site.

Vice Chairperson Wiggins stated that it is wonderful to be a part of an organization that does so many great things for the community; and commented that it is unbelievable how much Mr. McKay and his staff has been able to accomplish in a year. She expressed her thanks.

Mr. McKay commented that the Mayor's office has provided great tools and resources in order to be creative. He stated that the Barn project has dominated conversations for the past year. He noted that the project should be complete around Memorial Day to early June and commented that it will most likely take one month to move back in and occupy the offices and exhibit spaces.

He mentioned that the Parks Department is creating the coolest playground that has been seen at Innovation Hills and will be looking for ways to showcase the City's parks.

Mr. Snyder stated that it has been excellent timing to get the barn roof replaced. He commented that when the structural issue was first discovered concerns were raised that a snow load of five or six inches could cause the structure to collapse. Coincidentally, the recent heavy snow would have been enough to be a concern.

Mr. McKay stated that there is excellent documentation of the reconstruction with over 1,200 photos. He noted the Dairy Barn reconstruction has allowed for open space configuration that could lead to more opportunity for events. He stated that the private rentals begin ramping up dramatically in July. He mentioned that the bike tours were very successful last year, and plans for different tours are underway. He commented that one of the possible areas for a bike tour would be the Brooklands area, highlighting all the work on Auburn Road. He noted that with all of the new landscaping and development along that part of Auburn Road it would be good to develop a program to talk about that area of the city.

DRAFT FOR REVIEW 2021-2026 MUSEUM DIVISION PLAN

Chairperson Mallon stated that the Museum Division Plan was discussed at the last Museum Foundation Board meeting, and noted that some of the Board Members wanted to revisit this item and spend more time discussing it.

Mr. McKay stated that the draft Plan has been placed onto Google Drive for anyone on the Board to review. Staff follows a policy in setting goals that can be termed by the acronym, SMART, or Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely; and everything connects back to the Division Plan. He commented that a little break will be taken from fund raising until later this year. He stated that monies that come in relative to membership will go into the Membership Fund; however, other monies will be going into an Endowment Fund. He discussed donor fatigue, and listed all the large projects that the Museum has undertaken over the past few years, commenting that it was time to give the donors a break.

REVIEW OF MUSEUM 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. McKay noted that he sent the Annual Report out to the members. He reminded members that both the Red House and the Van Hoosen Farmhouse were on deeds of gift from Michigan State University; and he explained that as a part of that deed of gift, the University requests an annual report be submitted to let them know how the facility is being cared for. He added that the Annual Report is an excellent chance for the Museum to document what has happened over the past year, and the Report is shared with key volunteers and donors. He reported that 2020 was a challenging year, with numbers down dramatically just as every business in Michigan also experienced. He noted that things are beginning to pick up, with January and February hosting Outdoor Engagement classes, and the Calf Barn being shown nearly every day to potential private rentals.

Mayor Barnett stated that he is proud of the team. He mentioned that City fared well in its operations during the pandemic. He pointed out that the Annual Report highlights information regarding grants that were received in the past year specifically relative to COVID and is under consideration for a few more. He stated that Mr. Snyder and his team have done a great job managing the City's finances during this difficult time. He commented that the City learned that during this time of challenge, people flocked to the City's parks with attendance up over 38 percent over 2019. He noted that during the heat of the pandemic during March and April, park attendance was up over 300 percent, with individuals getting out of their homes to get fresh air. He pointed out that this was a reminder that investment in the City's park network is valuable. He expressed his thanks to the Foundation Board for their leadership in helping the Museum be successful, and their attendance at the few events that were held.

He commented that the City will be opening to the public on Monday, February 22. He stated that the City feels that it has taken advantage of this time to strengthen its offerings and focus on the future so it is ready to welcome back the community when the time comes. He stated that events will change for some time and individuals will most likely be staying closer to home; and he noted that this is the Museum's wheelhouse over giant venues.

Mr. McKay noted that the Annual Report highlights four different grants that were received this past year, including a \$20,000 Oakland Together Non-profit Covid-19 Economic Impact Grant, a \$40,000 Oakland Together Cultural Institution Covid Grant, a \$50,000 Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and a \$2,000 Risk-Avoidance Program grant. He explained that every one of those grants goes through Mr. Snyder's office. He listed the various projects accomplished over the past 10-12 years, including the Calf Barn, the Stoney Creek Schoolhouse project which not only undertook renovations but created an endowment for that building, the projects for the Equipment Barn and Dairy Barn, and the exhibits; and he commented that these projects were undertaken with the Board's guidance.

Upcoming Programs:

Mr. McKay discussed upcoming programs, noting the following:

- *Friday Night Film Festival in February, focuses on Michigan-related films. He commented that these online programs are a way to engage and build relationships.*
- *Women's History Month is highlighted by a program on March 10.*
- *The Museum collaborates with the Rochester-Avon Historical Society to present Brown Bag Lunch programs.*
- *Children's programs include weekday and weekend outdoor events.*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Mallon questioned whether the City maintained a Green Space acquisition fund.

Mr. Snyder responded that a ten-year millage collected approximately \$1 million each year to acquire green space. He explained that five or six properties have been purchased, many around the Clinton River corridor; and he noted that funds have been placed into a Green Space Trust that generates interest income which is utilized to pay for maintenance.

Mayor Barnett added that the millage was in place from 2006 to 2016 and preserves approximately 100 acres purchased. He mentioned that coincidentally a property owner has nominated their parcel for consideration, and he stated that the Green Space Advisory Board will be visiting the property to evaluate its potential and present a recommendation to the Administration and ultimately to City Council whether or not to pursue acquisition.

Chairperson Mallon commented that he knew of a 60-foot wide lot that is very deep on the south side of Tienken Road that would not be a good place for a new home and questioned whether the City would consider a property such as that to be more defensive and protect the village area.

Mayor Barnett responded that typically properties are scored on public access, connectivity to other parks, and proximity to trails or rivers. He commented that acquisition has not been done defensively to stop building; however, the Historic District raises an interesting question and would be worth taking a look at. He suggested Chairperson Mallon send him the address/location. He added that it would also require an owner with a similar mindset to explore consideration.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chairperson Mallon announced that the next meeting would be held on May 21, 2021 and suggested that perhaps the next meeting might be able to be held in person.

Mayor Barnett commented that the City has had all of its senior homes and its first responders vaccinated. He stated that the City is working closely with the County; and mentioned that the latest news is that there are 350,000 on the vaccination

waiting list through Oakland County, with approximately 8,000 vaccines administered each week. He stated that the City has seen approximately a 25-day decline in the cases and the data is suggesting that the cases are on a good path. He noted that 15 to 18 percent of the City's population has been vaccinated so far.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Mallon adjourned the meeting at 8:29 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Mary Jo Pachla.

Minutes were approved as presented at the _____ 2021 Regular Museum Foundation Board Meeting.

James Mallon, Chairperson