



# Rochester Hills

## Minutes - Draft

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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.*

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Friday, August 17, 2018

7:30 AM

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen  
Farm - Dairy Barn

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## CALL TO ORDER

*Vice Chairperson Wiggins called the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation  
Meeting to order at 7:34 a.m. Michigan Time.*

## ROLL CALL

**Present** 6 - Bryan Barnett, Vern Pixley, Katharine Rogers, Heather Sellick, Joe Snyder  
and Suzanne Wiggins

**Absent** 3 - Steven Fite, James Mallon and Stephanie Morita

## Others Present:

*Pat McKay, Museum Manager  
Michele Dunham, Education and Program Coordinator  
Maria Willett, Chief Assistant to the Mayor*

## PUBLIC COMMENT

*None.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**2018-0354** Approval of Minutes - May 18, 2018 Rochester Hills Museum Foundation

**Attachments:** [051818 Museum Foundation Draft Minutes.pdf](#)  
[Minutes Resolution.pdf](#)

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

**Aye** 6 - Barnett, Pixley, Rogers, Heather Sellick, Snyder and Wiggins

**Absent** 3 - Fite, Mallon and Morita

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation hereby approves the minutes of their May 18, 2018 Regular Meeting as presented.

## MUSEUM UPDATE

### NEW EXHIBITS

#### - Dairy Barn

**Pat McKay**, Museum Manager, expressed his appreciation to the Board Members for their help and participation in meetings and events. He commented that much is going on behind the scenes since the May meeting. He stated that City Council approved \$100,000 in additional funding at their June 4, 2018 meeting, and he thanked Council Member Morita and Chief Financial Officer Joe Snyder for being instrumental in gaining Council's approval. He noted that the Museum also contributed \$52,000 in funding. He mentioned that the Board Members were provided with an up-to-date spreadsheet noting Council contributions and additional fund raising.

He stated that a grant is pending through the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and commented that the Museum will make every effort to leverage its money.

He noted that two items, object cases and the silo, are not funded yet; and he stated that these particular items were being presented to specific donors to see if they might be interested in funding them. He commented that a June unveiling is anticipated.

He stated that the exhibit falls into the celebration of the Museum's 40th birthday in 2019, and he mentioned that the original petitions from the Questers are still in the Museum's archives and would be good to have on display as a part of the celebration. He commented that activities will be scheduled, and the Museum plans to leverage the 40th birthday events to do some additional fund raising or create different endowment funds.

**Vice Chairperson Wiggins** commented that when a museum opens to the public or opens a large new exhibit area, it presents an opportunity to have a pre-public opening for potential and past donors.

**Dr. Sellick** questioned whether the list of potential donors has been static, increasing, or decreasing.

**Vice Chairperson Wiggins** responded that the list is reviewed and evaluated for changes. She noted that the list was first started years ago by Mary Eberline and Frank Cardimen, and contained the names of those who were members of the Museum or had previously given to Museum projects. She commented that it does not change a great deal after each review. She mentioned that two years ago each Board Member was asked individually to add any connections they may have to the list. She stated that the Fundraising Committee is always open to new names to add to the list.

**Mr. McKay** noted that he would have more information at the November meeting on what the exhibit designs will look like. He noted that some Dairy Barn interior walls will begin moving, and the log cabin room and museum store will disappear. He stated that the exhibits will be installed as they come in. He commented that Samantha Lawrence is the contact for the exhibit designers.

- Van Hoosen Farmhouse - Beacon Technology Proposal

**Mr. McKay** stated that a review of the farmhouse displays will focus on telling the Van Hoosen story more than the local history story. He noted that Beacon Technology is a company that Ms. Dunham has worked with very closely as they have done all of the Museum's touch screen computers and installed the closed-captioned PBS movie onto the touch screen. The company presented an unsolicited proposal about a new technology to place beacons the size of a watch battery in various areas of the Museum. A visitor with their app on their iPhone or Android device would be able to access information, such as a video, at these various points. He noted that this would provide another opportunity to use new technology without changing the look of the building. He stated that it would be roughly \$3,500 and would include ten proximity beacons along with devices for those who visit who do not have Smartphones. He commented that the City's MIS Department was asked to begin looking at the technology, and mentioned that as it is over \$2,000, any purchase would have to go through bidding.

## EQUIPMENT BARN

- Financial Update

**Dr. Sellick** commented that it was mentioned that there is nothing "sexy" about an Equipment Barn; however, there are many people who would say that there is an allure to things like that. She suggested that a barn-raising hoedown would have tremendous potential to kick-start fund raising efforts. She stated that she and Mr. McKay looked at the target market for this type of event; and she noted that the southeastern Michigan area has a strong country-music favoring population that is loyal, family and community-oriented, and loves hoedowns. She commented that a Sunday afternoon event was discussed, as it would avoid lunch and dinner times and allow for tastings of food and beverages. She stated that holding it in the grassy area and using straw bales and tractors for decoration would provide photo spots and tie into fall and pumpkin carving. She added that including a corral for mini-horses in the area and asking dance studios willing to incorporate line dance sessions would get people into the mood.

**Dr. Sellick** stated that while a fall event would be ideal, a June 1 event may fit better on the Museum calendar.

**Mr. McKay** commented that September 9 was the only open date on the calendar between now and the end of the year; however, it would conflict with the

*Art and Apples event in downtown Rochester. He noted that the local breweries were contacted and it was determined that much more coordination of the logistics, licenses and approvals would be warranted.*

***Dr. Sellick** noted that while fall may be better than a June 1 date, the event still could be a good idea and have a large draw.*

***Mr. McKay** commented that a logo of a barn and green tractor could be developed. He mentioned that the Museum had a tractor display on July 28 along with celebrating the 20th season of the Grangers Baseball.*

***Mayor Barnett** stated that he thought it was a great idea.*

## **BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS**

### - Stoney Creek Schoolhouse

***Mr. McKay** noted that in the effort to take the Schoolhouse interior back to its original appearance, the 1976 paneling was removed. In the process, the glue holding the boards onto the wall was discovered to have asbestos, so the project was delayed for several months as the glue was tested and an abatement company completed the removal. In the meantime, the exterior has been painted, the cupola has been repaired and the bell is working and the entire building has been deep cleaned. He noted that they expect students in there starting in November.*

### - Window Shades

***Mr. McKay** stated that the Museum has received a financial grant through the National Questers organization that is being matched by the local chapters, Winkler Mill and Sarah Van Hoosen Jones, to add shades to all 37 windows in the Van Hoosen farmhouse. These shades will mimic the original shades used by the Van Hoosen Family and will aid in preventing sun damage to the interior. He explained that work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.*

## **ARCHIVE UPDATE**

### - Newspaper Digitization

***Mr. McKay** reported that the Museum is seeking to continue the newspaper digitization project; however, the City's vendor has been bought and the project will need to be rebid. The Museum will hustle this fall to spend the available funds before the end of the year.*

## **BROOMFIELD LEADERSHIP EVENT**

*Once again, we are seeking a speaker for this event. The Museum has several invitations out seeking confirmation but members are asked to assist the Museum is securing a speaker for this fall or next spring.*

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Mr. McKay distributed images of a commercial photo shoot that used the Museum property this week to advertise Backyard Products and their sale of do-it-yourself sheds that will be sold at Menards, Lowes, and Home Depot.*

## NEXT MEETING DATE

*Friday, November 16, 2018 - 7:30 a.m.*

## Upcoming Museum Events:

- Sunday, August 19 at Museum - Rochester Grangers vs Northville Eclipse
- Sunday, September 9 - Tractor Event
- Saturday, September 22 - Smithsonian Day Live!
- September 26-29 - Two staff members attending American Association for State and Local History in Kansas City
- Saturday, October 13 - Stone Wall Pumpkin Festival\*

*\* seeking Museum Board to light pumpkins from 6:15 p.m.*

## ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business to discuss, Vice Chairperson Wiggins adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.*

*Minutes prepared by Mary Jo Pachla*

*Minutes were approved as presented/amended at the November 16, 2018 Regular Museum Foundation Meeting.*

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*Suzanne Wiggins, Vice Chairperson*