



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Final

Rochester Hills Museum Foundation

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*Bryan Barnett, Julie Granthen, Steven Fite, Carol Morlan, Vern Pixley,
Katharine Altherr-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 21, 2025

7:30 AM

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm
- Dairy Barn

CALL TO ORDER

Suzanne Wiggins called the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Board Meeting to order at 7:34 a.m., Michigan Time.

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Katharine Altherr-Rogers, Heather Sellick, Suzanne Wiggins, Carol Morlan, Joe Snyder and Julie Granthen

Absent 3 - Bryan Barnett, Steven Fite and Vern Pixley

*Others present:
Cathy Fitzpatrick*

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2025-0081](#) Approval of Minutes - Rochester Hills Museum Foundation - November 15, 2024

Attachments: [Minutes Draft 11-15-24.pdf](#)
[Minutes Master 11-15-24.pdf](#)

Approved as Presented

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Per By Laws

[2025-0233](#) Nomination and Election of Chairperson for 2025

Katharine Altherr-Rogers nominated Suzanne Wiggins.

Resolved, that Suzanne Wiggins is Chairperson for the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation for 2025.

Aye 6 - Altherr-Rogers, Sellick, Wiggins, Morlan, Snyder and Granthen

Absent 3 - Barnett, Fite and Pixley

2025-0234 Nomination and Election of Vice Chairperson for 2025

Suzanne Wiggins nominated Heather Sellick.

Resolved, that Heather Sellick is Vice Chairperson for the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation for 2025.

Aye 6 - Altherr-Rogers, Sellick, Wiggins, Morlan, Snyder and Granthen

Absent 3 - Barnett, Fite and Pixley

2025-0235 Nomination and Election of Secretary for 2025

Heather Sellick nominated Kathy Altherr-Rogers.

Resolved, that Kathy Altherr-Rogers is Secretary for the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation for 2025.

Aye 6 - Altherr-Rogers, Sellick, Wiggins, Morlan, Snyder and Granthen

Absent 3 - Barnett, Fite and Pixley

MUSEUM OPERATIONS UPDATE – Patrick McKay

Museum operational projects:

- *The bridge replacement project that is replacing three footbridges over the Millrace behind the Van Hoosen Farmhouse. Budget is just under \$200,000 and all work should be completed in April.*
- *A new drinking fountain has been installed in the Children's Garden that is more ADA compliant and pet friendly.*
- *The schematic designs for the Big Barn project are underway with A3C architects from Ann Arbor. Kathy Rogers/Heather Sellick are on the team representing the Museum Foundation Board.*
- *Upgraded AV equipment will be added to the Calf Barn the week of June 2.*
- *New lighting fixtures in the Calf Barn will be installed later this year.*
- *Structural repairs for several Museum buildings have been identified - no plans to implement just yet.*

Discussion ensued.

Community Foundation Funds

Pat McKay discussed the Museum funds at the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester. He mentioned moving \$250,000 into the endowment fund from operating funds. McKay mentioned that there was a large donation that

was placed in our operating fund by the donor allowing excess funds to be moved into the Endowment fund.

The end of the year is the busiest time to receive donated funds as part of the annual appeal.

Endowment Fund Campaign

Pat McKay discussed the Museum improvements and construction that has gone on over the past many years and we are finally done. Strategically, we would like to look at the Endowment Fundraising as we await final costs for the Big Barn build.

Reports presented and accepted

- *Acceptance of Rochester Hills Museum 2024 Annual Report*
- *Update of Museum Division Plan 2026 - 2030 Kickoff*
- *Museum 2024 annual appeal/membership update report*

MUSEUM PROGRAM UPDATES – Cathy Fitzpatrick

Cathy Fitzpatrick discussed the Museum being closed for drop in tours in January and February, however that doesn't mean things are slow. Closing allows the team to get things done in the winter months. She discussed the Rochester Community Schools field trips. This year we have other local schools from private schools to other surrounding cities. Discussion ensued. Cathy Fitzpatrick discussed the February Friday Film Festival and the demographics of attendees. She also mentioned other off-site programs. She discussed volunteers. We do have a new point of sale system coming in. Pat McKay mentioned that our wedding bookings have decreased slightly but private rentals have increased significantly. Discussion about additional staff ensued.

OLD BUSINESS - Suzanne Wiggins, Heather Sellick

2025 – 2026 \$500,000 Museum Endowment Fund Appeal

Heather Sellick discussed getting the message out about the endowment fund and what it does, how much of it goes towards sustaining the Museum, how much can be pulled out for projects, etc. This is a multiphase endowment fund. We have to determine how many phases and what the actual goal is. Heather Sellick mentioned one million. The goal will be larger if the goal is to include the Big Barn. We have a pretty extensive list of people to reach out to for donations. Discussed the kick off for donations being March 29th. Pat discussed outreach happening monthly. We want to make sure we are asking clearly for endowment funds. Heather also mentioned that the endowment fund is not meant to replace other annual donations. Pat discussed the long haul, raising funds now for 50 or more years from now. Discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat McKay discussed the grant through the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity for \$1,000,000. This would be for the parking lot and would not need to be used until 2029. Joe Snyder asked if the Big Barn project would affect that. Pat McKay mentioned it would and the time frame of 2029 would help us resolve parking issues before any Big Barn construction. Discussion ensued.

Pat McKay mentioned discussing at the next meeting when would be the best time for this board to meet. Pat McKay mentioned having a larger audience at the meetings and these meetings could be held anytime. You do not have to be a Rochester Hills member to be a part of the board. Topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

Friday, May 16, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Suzanne Wiggins adjourned the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Megan Stencel.

Minutes were approved as presented at the May 16, 2025 Regular Museum Foundation Board Meeting

Suzanne Wiggins, Vice Chairperson