



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Draft

Rochester Hills Museum Foundation

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*Bryan Barnett, Julie Granthen, Steven Fite, Diana Mannino, 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 20, 2026

7:30 AM

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm
- Dairy Barn

CALL TO ORDER

*Heather Sellick called the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Board Meeting
to order at 7:32 a.m., Michigan Time.*

ROLL CALL

Present 8 - Katharine Altherr-Rogers, Heather Sellick, Steven Fite, Vern Pixley, Julie Granthen, Diana Mannino, Bryan Barnett and Joe Snyder

Absent 1 - Suzanne Wiggins

Others present:

Cathy Fitzpatrick, Program Coordinator

Samantha Lawrence, Archivist

Dennis Andrews, Parks and Natural Resources Deputy Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2026-0064](#)

Approval of Minutes - Rochester Hills Museum Foundation - November 21, 2025

Attachments: [11-21-25 RHMF Minutes Draft.pdf](#)
[11-21-25 RHMF Minutes Master.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Pixley, seconded by Altherr-Rogers, that these minutes be Approved as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 8 - Altherr-Rogers, Sellick, Fite, Pixley, Granthen, Mannino, Barnett and Snyder

Absent 1 - Wiggins

MUSEUM OPERATIONS UPDATE

Archive Update

Samantha Lawrence updated members on archive progress, noting that the team currently consists of one paid intern, one Wayne State practicum student, and seven volunteers. She mentioned the Museum celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Newberry Hill ski jump with a post on social media, which received over 150,000 views. She noted that the team has uploaded approximately 3,900 newspapers to the Greater Rochester History Online website in collaboration with the Rochester Hills Public Library. Additionally, the Museum collaborated with the Lorenzo Cultural Center and loaned them items for the upcoming Chasing Liberty exhibit.

Program Update

Cathy Fitzpatrick updated members on successful programs at the Museum. The holiday programs were very successful. The model train exhibit had approximately 2000 guests while the Old-Fashioned Christmas program had a record attendance of 450. The Museum is also collaborating with the Lorenzo Cultural Center to hold a theatre production of Patriot Ink for America 250. She also indicated that field trips are currently being held at the Stoney Creek Schoolhouse and Dairy Barn.

Museum Update

Cathy Fitzpatrick updated members on facility Improvements which included new projectors and a second screen being installed in the Calf Barn to improve presentation capacity. She also informed members of completed projects include the new mill race bridges and a dog drinking fountain. Additionally, new signage for the museum entrance and Stony Creek Village will be upcoming for 2026 and parking lot renovations for 2027-2028 at an estimated cost of \$3 million. Cathy indicated that the Museum has officially reached \$1 million in its endowment fund. Additionally, contributions increased by \$40,000 over the previous year, including memberships, annual appeals, and IRA rollovers. Discussion ensued.

Museum Hosting the Historical Society of Michigan Local History Conference March 27 from 5 -7 pm.

Cathy Fitzpatrick indicated they are seeking Museum Foundation board members to serve as hosts greeting guests. There is a record sign up of over 200 people.

2026-0068 2025 Rochester Hills Museum Annual Report

Attachments: [2025 Rochester Hills Museum Annual Report.pdf](#)

Cathy Fitzpatrick went over the 2025 Museum Annual Report.

Acceptance of 2026 – 2030 Rochester Hills Museum Division Plan

Cathy Fitzpatrick indicated the final plan will be coming up for discussion at the May meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Big Barn Concept Review and Discussion

Heather Sellick reviewed conceptual renderings for the reconstruction of the Big Barn. This is an \$8 million dollar project intended to rebuild on the original 101-foot footprint. Special features include timber frame, exhibit space and public restrooms. There will also be climate-controlled archive storage and a 30-person community conference room. Mayor Barnett indicated the project will be placed in the Capital Improvement Plan which will assist in seeking grants and private donors. Members Menino and Fite raised concerns regarding public expectation; they suggested ensuring the space is optimized for community use rather than appearing as a staff office building. Discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

2026-0065 Nomination and Election of Chairperson for 2026

Member Heather Sellick nominated Susan Wiggins. No other nominations.

Resolved, that Susan Wiggins is Chairperson for the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation for 2026.

Aye 8 - Altherr-Rogers, Sellick, Fite, Pixley, Granthen, Mannino, Barnett and Snyder

Absent 1 - Wiggins

2026-0066

Nomination and Election of Vice Chairperson for 2026

Member Katherine Altherr-Rogers nominated Heather Selleck. No other nominations.

Resolved, that Heather Selleck is Vice Chairperson for the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation for 2026.

Aye 8 - Altherr-Rogers, Sellick, Fite, Pixley, Granthen, Mannino, Barnett and Snyder

Absent 1 - Wiggins

2026-0067

Nomination and Election of Secretary for 2026

Member Heather Selleck nominated Katherine Altherr-Rogers. No other nominations.

Resolved, that Katherine Altherr-Rogers is Secretary for the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation for 2026.

Aye 8 - Altherr-Rogers, Sellick, Fite, Pixley, Granthen, Mannino, Barnett and Snyder

Absent 1 - Wiggins

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Heather Sellick welcomed City Council Member Diana Mannino to the Foundation. Introductions followed

NEXT MEETING DATE

Friday, May 15, 2026 - Viewing Museum off site storage area at the Rochester Hills Department of Public Services garage - 511 E. Auburn, between Rochester Road and John R Road.

Tour and discussion led by Samantha Lawrence, Museum Archivist

Meeting to follow at that location

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Heather Sellick adjourned the meeting at 9 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Melissa Zaborski.

Minutes were approved as presented/amended at the _____, 2026 Regular Museum Foundation Board Meeting.

Suzanne Wiggins, Chairperson