



Rochester Hills Minutes - Draft

1000 Rochester Hills Dr
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(248) 656-4600
Home Page:
www.rochesterhills.org

Sister City Committee/Rochester

Rochester Hills: David Blair, Theresa Mungoli, and David Walker
Rochester: Debbie Jones, Steve Sage, and Marilyn Trent
Youth Representative: Eliza Pizzuti

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

5:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Conference Room #221

CALL TO ORDER

Member Mungoli called the Sister City Committee/Rochester Meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present 4 - Debbie Jones, Marilyn Trent, Theresa Mungoli and David Walker

Absent 2 - Steve Sage and David Blair

Others Present:

Maggie Bobitz, President, Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Chamber Foundation

Eliza Pizzuti, Rochester Hills Government Youth Council Representative (RHGYC)

David Word, Executive Director, Rochester Avon Recreation Authority (RARA)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Trent, seconded by Jones, that this matter be to Approve the Agenda as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 4 - Jones, Trent, Mungoli and Walker

Absent 2 - Sage and Blair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2025-0349 Approval of Minutes - Sister City Committee/Rochester - June 3, 2025

Attachments: [06032025 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Trent, that the June 3, 2025 Minutes be Approved as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 4 - Jones, Trent, Mungoli and Walker

Absent 2 - Sage and Blair

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Sister City Committee/Rochester Meeting held on June 3, 2025 be approved as presented.

DISCUSSION

Memorial Day Parade 2026

Maggie Bobbitz, President, Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Chamber Foundation reported that the date of the Memorial Day Parade is May 25th, planning the same route as 2025, partners will be the City of Rochester, City of Rochester Hills and Rochester Avon Recreation Authority (RARA) and she spoke to Mayor Nancy Salvia the day prior to this meeting to discuss the Memorial Day Parade; then they discussed the City of Rochester's Flag Laying Ceremony being moved to 9:00 a.m. and then the Parade would begin no later than 9:30 a.m. and the event should be completed within 45 minutes.

Member Trent commented that they were compressing the schedule a little bit.

Ms. Bobbitz stated in regard to the participation forms, she had a revelation a couple of nights ago regarding some marketing that they are going to do, participation forms would be handed out at the Christmas Parade to all of the participants. She would like to partner with RARA - Untold Stories and her idea is that the people that we highlight in both of the parks would be asked to come and walk at the front of the parade like they are the unofficial official grand marshals. She asked Ms. Pizzuti, RHGYC Representative if Adams High School hosts a Veterans Breakfast?

Eliza Pizzuti, RHGYC Representative, stated that the students at the high school:

- Host a breakfast for the Veterans
- Student musicians perform the National Anthem
- Flags provided by the local Veteran Groups for the students to post at the corner of their high school grounds
- Students film a video for the student announcements at the beginning of school
- Many of the student clubs in the various schools might be interested in participating in the Memorial Day Parade
- Noted that there is an Honor Roll Wall at Rochester High School with a list of alumni names serving in the military

Ms. Bobbitz suggested contacting the high school students to assist in the promotion of Stories Untold and to have the students from the three high schools pick a Veteran to walk with on the Parade Route. She also suggested asking each of the municipalities to put the information on their websites and then RARA would distribute parade applications. She estimated that the costs would be for the Chamber Team's time, respective City Council signage and the flags to be distributed to the parade attendees. She recently reviewed the budget and reported that it may be approximately \$2,500.00 but remains under review.

Member Munglioli inquired as to the cost because in the past the Parade had been sponsored at different levels of sponsorship i.e. gold, platinum, silver sponsor and asked if sponsorships would continue to be utilized to help offset costs?

Ms. Bobbitz responded that the Chamber would not be soliciting sponsorships as their role is to execute the event as administrators. She stated that if the Committee Members were interested in soliciting sponsorships, she would find the sponsorship forms that were utilized in the past. She stated that because the costs incurred with the old parade route on Adams Road had been so high, that had been the reason to solicit sponsorships to cover the costs of the barricades, golf carts, porta potties, the sound

system, tent and etc.

Member Mungioli asked if the Chamber is looking for contributions from both of the cities to fund staffing and other costs?

Ms. Bobbitz responded that the cities' contributions would fund the staff; the signage and the flags are estimated to be less than \$300.00. She continued that the signage displayed on the parade wagon from the year before could be used for 2026.

Member Jones asked how what would the approximate contribution from each municipality be.

Ms. Bobbitz estimated approximately \$1,500.00 but stated she would further analyze and confirm that amount.

Discussion ensued by the Members as to engagement of the area youth organizations from the local high schools and the possibility of them walking together in the parade.

Ms. Bobbitz stated she would prepare a written game plan with logistic specifics going forward into the future and that the manual could possibly be used for the Hometown Christmas Parade.

Discussion ensued as to how best honor the veterans that have passed away in the line of duty at the Memorial Day Parade; that Veterans Day is for survivors of their military service. The Committee Members then talked about possibly contacting various local organizations that may be interested in participating in the Memorial Day Parade.

The discussion moved to what constitutes a successful Memorial Day Parade and it was agreed that 'success' meant having greater involvement and participation by the communities. It was noted that the previous year's Memorial Day Parade had a great turnout and that there is a dedicated Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce Face Book Page dedicated to the Memorial Day Parade.

Stories Untold Event

Member Mungioli recalled that several questions had been discussed at the last meeting as to how the Stories Untold Event would be structured.

David Word, Executive Director, Rochester Avon Recreation Authority (RARA), stated that for the first year, they would actually select the honorees and that going forward, there would be an application process and that it would be beneficial to not only meet with a historical organization and identify the area's oldest, deceased veterans along with more recently deceased veterans to expand more involvement across the various generations.

Member Jones inquired as to how honorees would be located and identified, specifically in the Rochester area. She commented further that the rededication of the World War II monument in Rochester and the stories of the founding families with well-known names in Rochester had been very emotional and touching. She also announced that the Rochester Heritage Festival is coming the last weekend of May.

Mr. Word stated:

- He is a Veteran with a network of resources
- Committee Members may have a number of resources locally

- Potentially looking for 5 honorees from Rochester and 5 from the City of Rochester Hills
- Important and impactful stories the first year, applicant process the following years
- Honorees have family members that could participate in each respective city's ceremonies and the Memorial Day Parade
- Week 1 - opening ceremony with an hour long program on an evening at each respective City's location
- Deployment of the weather resistant Story Board Easels in the Parks to be funded by donations
- Week 2 - education engagement - plan to have volunteers lead guided walks and talks about the honorees; additional board with sharpies available for people to thank the honorees
- Week 3 - reflection and conclusion - final ceremony - presentation of the storyboards to the family, closing remarks and light refreshments

Mr. Word requested that the honoree names be kept under wraps to be revealed at the opening ceremony and that the Committee Members could research possible honorees and pass those recommendations on to him.

Discussion ensued as to the venue locations - whether inside or outside.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion ensued as to whether the Committee Members will remain the same due to elections or if there might be different Council Members for each respective City. Member Jones, Member Trent and Member Mungoli stated their intent to remain on the Committee.

The Committee Members decided to move the Committee's December meeting from Tuesday, December 2, 2025 to the following Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- Tuesday, December 9, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business before the Committee, **Member Mungoli** adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.*