



Rochester Hills

Minutes

Sister City Committee/Rochester

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*Rochester Hills: David Blair, Theresa Mungioli, and David Walker
Rochester: Debbie Jones, Steve Sage, and Marilyn Trent*

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

6:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Conference Room #220

CALL TO ORDER

Member Mungioli called the Sister City Committee/Rochester meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. She stated that both Member Blair and Member Sage are running a little late delayed.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent 2 - Steve Sage and David Blair

(Member Blair arrived at 6:20 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Debbie Jones, Marilyn Trent, David Blair, Theresa Mungioli and David Walker

Absent 1 - Steve Sage

Others Present:

Pat McKay, Museum Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Blair, seconded by Walker, that the Agenda be Approved as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Jones, Trent, Blair, Mungioli and Walker

Absent 1 - Sage

DISCUSSION

Member Mungioli introduced Pat McKay, the Museum Manager of the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm.

Mr. McKay thanked the Committee for the opportunity to meet with them and share a little about the City's Museum. He gave a presentation about the museum, including its history, funding, programs and partnerships. The Museum is funded by the City of Rochester Hills and grants, and it offers a variety of programs and events, including walking tours, bike rides

tours, bike rides and film festivals.

He gave a slide presentation of the following:

- Village of Rochester was established in 1817; then it was established as a City in 1967
- Founders' Day is March 17, 1817 and is celebrated annually
- Stoney Creek Village was established in 1823
- Avon Township was established in 1835; then it was established as a City in 1985
- State of Michigan was established in 1837
- The Museum was established in 1979

He continued that the Museum is part of the Parks and Natural Resources Department which is comprised of the Museum, Natural Resources, Parks and Green Spaces.

He discussed that the Museum assists with programs, archiving and digitizing records with the following organizations:

- Paint Creek Center for the Arts
- Dinosaur Hill
- Paint Creek Trailway
- Digitized various organizations historical newspapers, available online
- Local authors' books - Penny Frank Reddish, Bob Michel and Robert Lytle
- Rochester Hills Public Library programs
- Rochester's Downtown Development Authority
- Michigan Museum Association
- Rochester Farmers Market
- The local cemeteries and the historical tours

The Museum also partners with other organizations such as the library and the Downtown Development Authority. It also has an agreement with the City of Rochester for \$40,000.00 per year and began last year to provide archival and curatorial services.

He stated that any time members of the public, residents or organizations reach out to the Museum, that he and his staff are eager to share information, accept originals of historical documents, or will digitize them and return the originals to the provider.

The Museum is currently working on two projects with the City of Rochester: the Grain Elevator and the Graham. The Grain Elevator is a space in downtown Rochester that will be used for museum programs and the Graham is a building that will be converted into an Eastern Market style shed.

He described an app that the Museum has become aware of called CLIO - users download the app and when traveling, they access the app and enter their location and CLIO is a guide to history and culture in that particular location. CLIO has approximately 39,765 historical entries across the country and approximately 1,775 walking tours, virtual tours of museums, heritage trails and other curated experiences authored by hundreds of organizations and is updated and improved frequently.

He gave a brief description of the buildings managed and maintained by the Museum; the various fundraising programs as well as uses for the Calf Barn such as events, weddings, etc. He added that at the same time, the Museum Staff is very conscientious of the close proximity of the surrounding neighborhood and therefore, curfew and noise limitations are strictly enforced out of respect for the neighboring homes.

The Committee Members asked about various protections and care in place for the archival materials at the Museum. Mr. McKay described that when the renovations were being done at the Museum, having heard experiences of other communities losing all of their archival materials in flood events, etc. figured into the renovation and storage planning to have a number of boxes stored on carts with wheels so that when time is of the essence, great quantities can be wheeled to other buildings or into trucks for safe evacuation of the City's historical treasures.

The Committee Members and Mr. McKay discussed the Museum Staff structure and the care of the buildings and the grounds. In conclusion, the Museum is a valuable asset to the community and is committed to preserving the history of Rochester and Rochester Hills.

Mr. McKay stated that the Museum does have a request for assistance - the 2026 is the semiquincentennial - 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 2026. He stated that he is looking for ideas and referenced the following:

- Sundial located in the City of Rochester installed in 2017 as part of its 200th year bicentennial*
- In 1976, the community project was the renovation of the school house and transformed it from a storage warehouse, neglected building to a classroom that has been used since 1976 and still being used today*

The Committee Members discussed various buildings and possible uses by both of the cities.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee Members were charged with suggestions for speakers for the upcoming December meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- Tuesday, December 3, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, it was moved by Member Jones and seconded by Member Blair to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.