



City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS

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Legislative File No: 2012-0476

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Pat McKay, Director of Interpretive Services, Rochester Hills Van Hoosen Museum

DATE: November 28, 2012

SUBJECT: Rochester Hills Museum Update and Consideration of Proposed 501(c3)

REQUEST:

The City Administration requests City Council authorization to establish the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation and the adoption of the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Bylaws.

BACKGROUND:

For the past three years, the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm has been pursuing various strategies to enhance the Museum operation and lessen dependence on tax payer support. With generous financial support from the George and Elizabeth Seifert Foundation, the Museum has been able to hire fund developers and create a strategic plan to accomplish its goals. Thus far, the Museum has been able to pursue accreditation, acquire the Stoney Creek Schoolhouse, implement repairs to the Calf Barn, and raise substantial private funds to support these initiatives.

While fundraising from private individuals has been successful, our grant request to several private foundations has not achieved success. A frequent reason for our grant denials is the lack of a charitable foundation that solely supports the Museum and its mission. For the past 25 years, the Museum has had a strong relationship with the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester and has utilized their services to secure numerous charitable contributions. Unfortunately, many of the private granting agencies do not feel that our relationship with the Community Foundation provides the necessary mission driven support for our grant requests. The Museum is interested in establishing a nonprofit foundation so we can improve and expand our chances to secure private grant funding and other possible funding opportunities. We will continue to maintain our strong relationship with the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester for many of our ongoing projects and initiatives.

A copy of the proposed bylaws is attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Rochester Hills City Council approve this request to establish the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation and the adoption of the Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Bylaws.