

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 11, 2024

OFFICIAL MEETING

PRESENT

Martin Balzer
LeVonne Cescolini-Boyer
Mike Bruntz
John Karedes
Kim Last
Mike Provinzino
Christopher Pudelek

ABSENT

John Navrocki

ALSO PRESENT:

Mayor Rich Veenstra, Susan English, Museum Coordinator/Staff Liaison,

With a quorum being present, Chairman Pudelek called an official meeting to order at 3:34pm.

Minutes: On a motion by Levonne Cesscolini-Boyer, and seconded by Kim Last, the minutes of the November 13, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

Updates of the Historical Museum:

Susan reported that the Christmas Tree Lighting event had been cancelled due to rain. She has arranged for new caroling group to perform at the 2024 Christmas tree lighting. Susan reminded the Commissioners that the museum had been partnering with local restaurants in a promotion called “Culture and Cuisine” since October. The restaurant provides a \$25 gift card. Visitors during that month are asked a trivia question, and if they answer correctly, are entered into a drawing for the free gift card. Dunkley’s Tavern, Muggs-N-Manor, 601 Bar & Grill, Pyramid Pizzeria and Sports Bar, Shoeless Joe’s Ale House and Grille, and Millie’s Pancake Shoppe have participated thus far. The partnership is promoted on Village and museum social media, Addison cable television and local newspapers. Commissioner Bruntz asked if the gift cards were donated. Susan indicated that they were donated to the Historical Society. He recommended that she reach out to Famous Dave’s Barbecue as they are very community minded. Mayor Veenstra suggested reaching out to the new Lake St. café. Susan shared a spreadsheet showing the positive impact of the campaign on walk-in visitation on the museum. She is unsure if she will continue it during the summer Rock n Wheels season due to the high visitation numbers.

Susan went on to share the 2023 Annual Review. The museum’s engagement number was 4,011 despite not having one of the Village’s most popular events, the Christmas Tree lighting, last year. It also highlights many of the new exhibits that were installed in the South Exhibit room of the museum including: Addison schools, Village Green, Hall & Gazebos, Recreation and Youth Sports. There are plans to redo the Military room and Musical instrument rooms.

Addison School Dist. 4 second grade classes are scheduled to visit from April 10 to May 15th. Susan had the second-grade teachers out to the museum to see the new exhibits in the museum in February. Susan is reaching out for volunteers to assist with these groups.

Historical Society Updates

Chairman Pudelek noted that the Society was recognized for their 50th anniversary last week at the Village Board Meeting with a proclamation. The Society had cake and coffee with the Village Board following the meeting.

As far as programming, Chairman Pudelek noted that the Society and library sponsored a children’s program regarding Jenny Appleseed last weekend. On March 21, the Society and library are having a presentation on

“Smoky the War Dog”, a World War II therapy dog. Susan noted that he received several medals for his conduct. On April 25th, Gary Wenstrup will present “The History of the Beatles in One Hour”. Susan commented that it is the 60th anniversary of the British music invasion of the U.S.

The Society is again sponsoring a scholarship for Addison students. Application deadline is April 5. Commissioner Bruntz asked the amount of the scholarship and where the funds for it come from. Susan replied that it is a \$1,000 scholarship. Donations, money raised from the summer craft raffle, and Society funds are used to provide the scholarship. Commissioner Bruntz asked if the scholarship is only awarded to an Addison Trail student. Susan replied that the scholarship is open to any student who is an Addison resident, is going to graduate high school or has graduated, and is attending post high school college or trade school. The Society’s application is based on extracurricular activities and personal essay not scholastic achievement or G.P.A.

Flags for Addison Program:

Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer reported the program officially kicked off last week. Flags are placed Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, Patriot’s Day, and Veterans Day. Commissioner Provinzino asked if they were going to put up signage with the flags again this year. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer responded they would be posted just the first time because she does not want demand to outgrow supply. Last year, they sold 60 flags. She hopes to double that this year to 120. They made 100 flags this year and will need to make 20 additional flags. She is having printed brochures done this year. She hopes to get businesses along Lake St. involved. Commissioner Karedes asked if any of the Veterans were supporting this initiative. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer responded that the V.F.W. stores the flags for the project when not in use. Funds from this program will eventually send two high schools to Washington, D.C. Last year, it broke even.

STEPS Committee Update

The committee met last month and finished the Mission, Vision and Governance section and started the Interpretation section of the workbook. The committee is evaluating the museum on better or silver indicators. The committee is scheduled to meet again next week.

U.S. Semiquincentennial Planning:

Susan reached out to other agencies and we are going to start meeting next month. Susan has rebranded the committee “USA250” because most people do not know what semiquincentennial means. She reached out to the school districts, library, park district, V.F.W., Addison Center for the Arts, and scouts. Commissioner Karedes asked if she had a date yet. Susan indicated that the first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 25th at 10aam in Room 2002.

Chairman Pudelek asked if there were any plans to observe the 140th anniversary of the Village next fall. Susan deterred to the mayor for response. The mayor indicated that we had marked the 130th anniversary, but there were no set plans to do so for the 140th.

Other Business: None

The next meeting of the Addison Historical Commission will be Monday, May 13, 2024 at 3:30 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Provinzino and seconded by John Karedes and approved by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan English
Museum Coordinator
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