

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 13, 2024

OFFICIAL MEETING

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Mike Bruntz
John Karedes
John Navrocki
Mayor Veenstra

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan English, Museum Coordinator/Staff Liaison,

With a quorum being present, Chairman Pudelek called an official meeting to order at 3:32pm.

Minutes: On a motion by Mike Provinzino, and seconded by Kim Last, the minutes of the March 11, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

Updates of the Historical Museum:

Susan updated the Commission on the “Culture & Cuisine” Promotion. This is the promotion that the museum is doing with local restaurants since last October. Visitors are asked a trivia question, and if they answer correctly, they can enter a free monthly drawing for a restaurant gift card. Susan shared a comparison of last year’s visitation to this year’s visitation. There has been a slight uptick in visitation. Unfortunately, it has not significantly grown our Saturday attendance. The May restaurant is Sabor De Mi Tierra Mexican Grill. The promotion will be paused during the summer due to Rock ‘N Wheels visitation. It will resume in September. Chairman Pudelek asked if we were going to approach the same restaurants. Susan indicated that she still has a list of untapped she can go through before repeating.

Susan reported that 5 of the 7 elementary schools have visited the museum bringing a total of 262 students and 17 chaperones for a total of 279 visitors in total. The final visit is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15th. Lincoln and Wesley schools have been combined due to the mayor’s schedule. We anticipate another 66 students. Susan expressed her gratitude to Laretta Schneider and Tom Power for helping staff out with these tours

The museum will be open Memorial Day, Monday, May 27 from 9-11am. as part of the Village’s event. Susan invited Commissioners to stop by after having breakfast at the Pancake Breakfast at Indian Trail and before the program at Veterans Circle. The rain location is the Village Hall Rotunda. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer asked about the schedule. Commissioner Provinzino indicated that Breakfast was 8-10 am. LeVonne indicated her students are participating in the ceremony at the Cemetery.

Rock ‘N Wheels starts June 6 and runs through August 29, 2024 for a total of 13 weeks. Susan shared the list of historical presentations for the summer with the Commission. She was able to schedule one for each week this summer due to an increase in her budget. Commissioner Last asked when the historical presentations are held. Susan replied that they occur between 6-8pm the same hours as the craft and vintage fair and museum open house. Susan mentioned that she is looking for volunteers to staff the Museum tent and asked Commissioners to sign up. Chairman Pudelek asked if she saw that he signed up. Susan thanked him for volunteering. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer commented on Uncle Sam performance planned for July 4th. Susan responded that she roped a colleague into doing it since she had no luck with professional Uncle Sam reenactors.

Historical Society Updates

Chairman Pudelek reported on Historical Society Spring Programming. In March, the Society co-sponsored a program on Smoky: The War Dog. Susan reported that it drew 14 people. In April, the program was on the history of the Beatles which drew a good crowd of 34 people. Many were first time attendees at a Society program.

The Society awarded its \$1,000 scholarship to Alexander Addison. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer commented that he is one of their top kids and has won many awards and scholarships. He is the grandson of a former Village employee. Susan did not review applications this year. Alexander will be attending Illinois Institute of Technology in the fall. His scholarship will go towards room and board and books since Alexander earned a tuition free scholarship at the school. He will be pursuing studies in Computer Science.

On April 29, the Society held their annual Volunteer recognition event at the Pyramid Pizzeria and Sports Bar. It was well attended.

Chairman Pudelek invited Commissioners to attend the Society's joint fundraiser with ACA and the Women's Club of Addison, Addison Uncorked on Tuesday, June 25. Event will be from 6-8:30pm. Joe Kalish will be the performer this year. August Hill Winery, Church St. Brewing Company and Sal's Beverage World are returning vendors. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day of the event. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer asked about the change in entertainment. Committee decided to try a different music style this year.

Flags for Addison Program:

Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer that they have 60 people signed up for the program as of now. She mentioned being at the June 6th RNW to promote the program with her students. She has 40 extra flags that they can utilize. Chairman Pudelek mentioned he received a hand delivered flyer. LeVonne replied that this was done for prior participants. She asked Susan to share on Village social media again. Mike P. asked if there was a way LeVonne could have a bigger sign about the program printed to place in neighborhoods. She is planning to put smaller signs with the first batch of flags on May 27th. LeVonne will contact Mark Turk about having some yard signs printed. Chairman Pudelek asked if there was increased interest among student participation. LeVonne indicated she had 25 members of the Addison Trail Veterans Support Organization this year and anticipates more to join next fall. Commissioner Provinzino asked if they will be part of Memorial Day. LeVonne replied that 4 of her top members are participating. Susan mentioned to LeVonne that Teirsa will be organizing the Village's Veterans Day Ceremony and will be in touch with her. LeVonne mentioned that Addison Trail is expanding their Veterans Day event from just the luncheon to an all-school assembly and luncheon. Mike P. suggested they come to the Pancake breakfast and promote the program.

U.S. 250 Committee Update:

Susan reported that the first meeting of the expanded U.S. 250 committee held their first meeting in April. The committee is made up of representatives of the School District, Park District and library among other organizations. She shared information on activities that were held in Addison in 1965. She noted that several of the Committee members were not born yet at the time of the Bicentennial. The group will meet again in September. Susan also had a meeting with other museums who are located on Route 20 to discuss joint commemoration of the highway's 100th anniversary in 2026. There was a member of the Elgin Convention and Visitor's bureau. She is going to reach out to her counterparts. Right now, Elmhurst, Addison, Bartlett and Elgin have joined together. They plan to meet again in September. Chairman Cescolini-Boyer mentioned that Addison Trail has a new assistant principal, and she has spoken to her already about this initiative. Chairman Pudelek asked who the library sent. Susan replied that their community engagement coordinator, Gaby Tafolla attended. Commissioner Provinzino asked how the drive along Route 20 is today. Susan mentioned that Iowa has done a terrific job promoting their section of the roadway.

Other Business: None

The next meeting of the Addison Historical Commission will be Monday, September 9, 2024 at 3:30 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Martin Balzer and seconded by Mike Provinzino and approved by all.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan English".

Susan English
Museum Coordinator

