

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

September 9, 2024

OFFICIAL MEETING

PRESENT

Martin Balzer
LeVonne Cescolini-Boyer
Kim Last
John Navrocki
Christopher Pudelek

ABSENT

Mike Bruntz
John Karedes
Mike Provinzino
Mayor Veenstra

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan English, Museum Coordinator/Staff Liaison,

With a quorum being present, Chairman Pudelek called an official meeting to order at 3:30pm.

Minutes: On a motion by LeVonne Cescolini-Boyer, and seconded by Martin Balzer, the minutes of the May 13, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

Updates of the Historical Museum:

Susan reported that we had 10 visitors for the Memorial Day Open House which is a good number. For this year, staff added an exhibit on Officer Olejarz who recently was awarded a Bronze Star for his service in Iraq.

The total engagement numbers for Rock 'N Wheels this summer as 2,679 which is about a 10% decrease from last year. We had one very rainy event in mid-June, and the threat of bad weather on a couple of other nights that probably caused the decrease. Community relations staff taped the historical portrayals and presentations for ACTV and YouTube which extended their reach. Commissioner Balzer mentioned that he viewed a couple of the presentations online. For National Night out, the museum was closed this year, but museum staff demonstrated old fashioned games at the museum tent on the Village Green and engaged 63 people which is more than we ever did keeping the museum campus open.

Susan mentioned that the "Culture and Cuisine" promotion is resuming this month. If people visit the museum and answer the trivia question correctly, they are entered into a free drawing for a restaurant gift certificate. This month's restaurant partner is Johnny B's.

Susan reported that the museum will be open on Veterans Day, November 11 from 9-11am. Teirsa has been tasked with organizing the ceremony with local stakeholders. The ceremony will take place at 11 am at Veterans Circle.

STEPS committee did not meet during the summer. Susan is trying to schedule meeting for October.

Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer asked Susan to forward her contact information for Officer Olejarz so she could invite him to the Addison Trail High School expanded veterans' event and luncheon this year. They are going to have an assembly with a speaker from the Wounded Warrior organization. Commissioner Pudelek mentioned that there may be other police officers who served or are currently still in the reserves.

Historical Society Updates

Susan reported on Society updates. Susan mentioned that there have been a lot of new exhibits installed in the South Room of the museum recently. They included displays on Addison Village Halls, the Village Green and Gazebos, Addison public schools, Addison Youth Sports, scouting in Addison, and famous residents who are no

longer living. The military room display was reorganized, and future plans are for adding a display on the Addison Chamber of Commerce to the Business case. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer asked what happened to the Chamber. Susan mentioned that their administrator, Lee Hanrahan LaRocca passed away, and there was no one to take over the organization. The museum was given old records and photographs of the organization for the collection. Commissioner Pudelek asked when the group was formed. Susan replied it was around 1950. The Historical Society purchased a touchscreen monitor kiosk which will enable visitors to access our online exhibits and Photo database from the museum. We are currently waiting for Buildings and Grounds staff to install the monitor in the Local History room.

Addison Uncorked was held. Event was moved into the Rotunda due to weather. We had a much lower turnout this year, only 52 people as opposed to 103 the year prior. Fortunately, we had less expenses as the entertainment and table rental were provided for free. John was able to secure a lot of donated pizza.

The Society, with financial assistance from the Village, purchased a rare Civil War roster for the museum. It lists Company I of the 105th Illinois Volunteer Regiment. Story has been shared on social media and in local newspapers. Commissioner Last asked if we had a list of the names. Susan replied that we did have the names from research on the Secretary of State website.

Flags for Addison Program:

Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer that they had 75 people sign up for the program this year up from 60 people last year. She distributed 50 flyers at the last week of Rock 'N Wheels and hopes to attract 100 registrants for next season. They have 2 more Flag days for this year- Patriot's Day (September 11) and Veterans Day. Commissioner Pudelek mentioned that he saw that they were in the parade. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer credited Susan for their inclusion.

U.S. 250 Committee Update:

Susan reported that the committee which now is composed of Addison agencies is scheduled to meet on September 24th. The kick off for the commemoration will be July 4, 2025. Commissioner Balzer asked if that would be the theme for the parade next year. Susan replied that she did not think so, but there would be banners at the end of the Parade denoting the 250th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of Route 20.

Other Business:

Commissioner Pudelek asked about the program flyers. Susan reported that the Society and Library are co-sponsoring two program in the fall. On Thursday, September 19th, Sara Phalen of the West Chicago Museum will present "The Roots of DuPage's Latinx Community at 7pm at the library. Like Addison, West Chicago has a large Hispanic population and Ms. Phalen will explain why many immigrants came to DuPage and how they contributed to not only the economy but culture of the area. It will be videotaped by the Village and air on ACTV and briefly, on YouTube.

The October program is about Zombies. Elizabeth Carlson will look at how Zombies have impacted our popular culture. The program is Thursday, October 17th at 7p.m. It is a lecture with props. Servings of "brain cake" will be available for sampling following the program.

Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer asked about the fall event. Susan replied that the fall event was discontinued last year. There was some talk about an International Multi-cultural event for September, but that fell through. The museum participates in the Park District Candy Carnival and the Addison School District 4 Trunk or Treat. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer will check if the trunk or treat at the high school is open to outside groups. It is to be held Tuesday, October 29th.

Commissioner Pudelek mentioned changes to the Tree Lighting due to the mayor's schedule. It will be Saturday, November 30th from 5-9, followed by two more events on Saturdays, Dec. 7th and 14th from 5-9pm. The Christmas parades have been moved to Friday December 13th and 20th.

A discussion was held whether or not to keep the next scheduled meeting for Monday, November 11th due to the holiday. Commissioner Balzer asked if the Village was open that day. Susan indicated that it was. It was decided that the next meeting of the Addison Historical Commission will be Monday, November 11, 2024 at 3:30 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Navrocki and seconded by Levonne Cescolini-Boyer and approved by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan English
Museum Coordinator

