

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 12, 2025

OFFICIAL MEETING

PRESENT

Martin Balzer
Mike Bruntz
Kimberly Last
Mike Provinzino
Christopher Pudelek

ABSENT

Levonne Cescolini-Boyer
John Karedes
Mayor Hundley

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan English, Museum Coordinator/Staff Liaison,

With a quorum being present, Chairman Pudelek called the official meeting to order at 3:31pm.

Minutes: With a motion by Commissioner Last, and seconded by Commissioner Balzer the official minutes of the March 10, 2025 meeting were approved unanimously.

Updates of the Historical Museum:

Susan reported that the museum saw 41 during the April Open House in conjunction with the Fine Arts show at Village Hall. The museum had Jonathan Sebastian portray Teacher Koch in the Century House.

Susan distributed copies of the Friendship Plaza Historic Walking Tour brochure. The brochure utilized content that was previously developed for "A Bit of Addison History" segments and an online tour on Vaimonde website. Vaimonde went bankrupt after the pandemic, and the online tour was no longer available. This brochure has a QR code that can be used to access a web version of the tour. The tour is being translated into both Spanish and Polish.

School visits are scheduled to start this week and last through next week.

The museum will be open from 9-11 am as part of the Village's Memorial Day observance.

Rock "N Wheels begins June 5 and runs through August 28th. Susan distributed a schedule of portrayals for this summer. Our presentations from last summer earned the museum two awards: one from the Illinois State Historical Society and one from the Illinois Association of Museums. New presenters this year include: a woman astronomer, The Underground Railroad by the Lombard Historical Society, Eleanor Roosevelt, Vintage Baseball demonstration, a Civil War nurse, the Illinois Rock & Roll Museum on Route 66 and Illinois Native Americans by the Midwest Soaring Foundation. Chairman Pudelek asked if a sign-up for volunteers is being sent out. Susan indicated that she would send out a sign-up request.

Historical Society Updates:

Susan reported on behalf of the Historical Society. Spring programs on Women Astronomers and The Unsinkable Molly Brown attracted about 15 people each night. The programs were held at the Village Hall due to library renovations.

The Society has awarded its 2025 \$1,000 scholarship to Marisa Lloveras. Marisa will be attending the University of Chicago and will pursue a career in the healthcare and science field.

The Society held a book sale last Saturday. The books were deaccessioned from the collection as they did not pertain to Addison History. The sale netted \$300. Susan thanked Tom Power, Kimberly Last and Martin Balzer for their help with the sale. Commissioner Bruntz asked what was done with the books that did not sell. Commissioner Last indicated that she donated many of the former library books to Better World books which is a nonprofit that resells the books to promote literacy projects. Susan is going to approach Leonard's Auction house to see if they might be interested in helping us sell some rarer volumes including several years of Harpers Weekly from the mid 1860's.

Susan distributed the flyer for Addison Uncorked event to be held on Tuesday, June 24 from 6-8:30pm on the museum grounds, and invited all to attend.

STEPS Committee Report:

Susan presented the proposed changes to the Museum Ethics policy developed by the Historical Society Collections committee. Most of the changes are to remove diversity, equity and inclusion language. On a motion by Chairman Pudelek, and seconded by Commissioner Provinzino, the proposed revisions to the policy were approved.

Flags for Addison Program:

There was no formal report as Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer was absent. There was discussion about how to get the word out about the flag program. Commissioner Provinzino suggested the group target specific neighborhoods with flyers. Chairman Pudelek noted the Farmwood and Foxdale usually have high voter turnout, and might be good locations to try this approach.

U.S. 250 Committee Update:

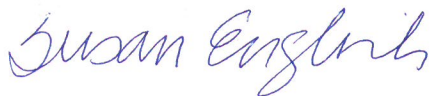
Susan reported that the committee plans to meet tomorrow. The museum did a soft launch of the 250th commemoration by participating in the "Two Lights for Tomorrow" event to mark the anniversary of Paul Revere's famous ride. Two lights were illuminated in the Century House. The committee plans to sponsor bell ringing opportunities at the museum during Rock 'N Wheels and National Night Out this summer.

Other Business:

Susan shared that the Village has approved the hire of a seasonal summer assistant for the museum. Eleanor Mueller has a Bachelor's degree from Knox College in Galesburg and hopes to enter the museum field. She brings a lot of graphic design experience, and Susan hopes to utilize these skills to upgrade museum interpretive signage.

Commissioner Pudelek announced that the next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, September 8, 2025. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Provinzino and seconded by Commissioner Balzer and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 4:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan English
Museum Coordinator