

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 10, 2025

OFFICIAL MEETING

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

John Karedes
Mike Provinzino
Mayor Veenstra

ALSO PRESENT:

Susan English, Museum Coordinator/Staff Liaison,

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

Minutes: With a motion by John Navrocki, and seconded by LeVonne Cescolini-Boyer, the official minutes of the September 9, 2024 meeting and the unofficial minutes of the November 11, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.

Updates of the Historical Museum:

Susan reported that despite a change in schedule for this past year's Tree lighting, the museum still saw 208 visitors. We had Victorian carolers and Jessica Michna do an historical portrayal. On the second Saturday evening of the event, the museum greeted 75 visitors to the museum and Century House. The Coach House was closed due to lack of staffing. On the third Saturday, there were 23 visitors, and again, the Coach House was closed. Commissioner Balzer commented that he thought 75 people for the second week event was good.

Susan then shared the Annual Review of the Museum for 2024. Highlights were the AAM award of excellence for the Museum Orientation video; the Society hosted 5 diverse local history programs: two new exhibits were installed at the museum: the touchscreen interactive kiosk to access online content and the reader rail installation in the Coach House. Staff produced 9 History segments. Total engagement was 3,837 down from 2023's 4011. This was due to lower turnout at Addison Uncorked, less school children, and some weather issues at Rock 'N Wheels. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer commented that she felt our visitation during Rock 'N Wheels was very good. Susan mentioned the craft fair and historical presentations as reasons for this. Chairman Pudelek asked about the unaccompanied minor policy that was put in effect last summer. Due to large groups of unsupervised teens visiting the campus during Rock 'N Wheels, unaccompanied minors were turned away from the museum.

Assistant Museum Coordinator Teirsa Reyes transferred to the Police Department. Unfortunately, that position was not appropriated for in this coming year's budget. However, the Community Relations department was assigned a seasonal staff member, and Don Weiss suggested that the position be exclusive to the museum. Susan admitted that it was disappointing to lose the second staff position. Community relations is moving their offices in the Village Hall, and Susan will have a work space in the new department. She plans to spend at least Mondays at this office to increase awareness of the museum, especially with the new Mayor being inaugurated at the end of April.

School visits were postponed until mid-May due to the Mayoral election. Susan has some tentative dates on hold. The inauguration will take place on April 24th at Village Hall

Village Hall is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Susan has been tasked with writing articles for the Village newsletter, the Historical Society will host a celebration at Village Hall in August, and there will be a special trivia

event in September. Susan also is getting funding for 25th anniversary ornaments to be produced. Susan mentioned that video productions based on her articles are being done as well. Commissioner Pudelek commented that the piece of Jimmy Carter's visit to Addison which aired around the time of his death was very well done. Susan remarked that the video received the most views of any of her segments.

Historical Society Updates:

Commissioner Navrocki reported that the Society Potluck was not as well attended, and they had too much food left over. Susan reminded him that this year's presenter is Leslie Goddard who is very popular. She will be speaking about the holiday film, "It's a Wonderful Life".

Spring programming resumes with "The Women Who Measured the Stars" about women astronomers by Rebecca Tulloch on March 20. Jessica Michna will portray Molly Brown on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Both programs will be held at Village Hall Room 1301 due to library renovations.

STEPS Committee Report:

Susan presented the proposed Museum Interpretive Goals and Guidelines from the STEPS committee. These were approved by the Historical Society Board in November 2024. On a motion by Commissioner Balzer and seconded by Commissioner Navrocki, the proposed interpretive goals were approved.

Flags for Addison Program:

Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer reported that they have officially started their third year of the Flag program. Last year, they sold, 70 flags. They hope to sell 120 flags this year. Commission Cescolini-Boyer reported that they also laid wreaths at St. Paul Cemetery.

U.S. 250 Committee Update:

Susan reported that the committee met in November. They agreed to a logo using the Addison Advantage logo with USA 250 in the ribbon. Susan has created a page on the Village website to start promoting USA 250. The group was hoping to launch at the first night of Rock 'N Wheels. Susan attended an online conference on the 250 and learned of a nationwide observance to be held around April 18th to commemorate Paul Revere's historic ride. She has gotten the Village managers consent to participate in the "Two Lights for Tomorrow" commemoration. Another resource is for teens. Commissioner Last asked for the official name of the anniversary. Susan replied "Semiquincentennial". Susan mentioned that the Village will be having drawings at the museum every week where one can win an embroidered Lands End tote bag, with campfire mug, magnet, ornament and history books. It is hoped this will drive people from the Village Green to the museum.

Other Business:

Susan shared some promotional items she has had produced. The Village and Society collaborated on the 3-D magnet with a modified museum logo. It is being used as an incentive for new individual memberships. Susan also had a large campfire cup with the modified logo produced.

Commissioner Pudelek announced that the next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, May 12, 2025. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Balzer and seconded by Commissioner Navrocki and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 3:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan English
Museum Coordinator