

MEETING MINUTES
FARMINGTON HILLS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
City of Farmington Hills
The Community Room, City Hall
January 28, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.
www.fhgov.com
248-871-2540

1. Commissioner Scott called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT: John Willyard, John Scott, Earl Baxtresser, Joe Derek,

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Hulett

LIAISON TO HERITAGE & HISTORY MUSEUM: Brian Golden was present.

LIAISON FROM CITY: Absent

OTHERS PRESENT: None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**MOTION by Baxtresser, supported by Derek, to approve the agenda as published.
Motion carried 4-0.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**MOTION by Willyard, supported by Derek, to accept the minutes of December 3, 2025.
Motion carried 4-0.**

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Museum Accession/De-Accession Reviews: None.

B. Museum Improvement- Spicer House Move:

1. Golden discussed a conversation with Bryan Farmer, noting that the Spicer House move will remain on hold until the Oakland County Parks Inter Local Agreement is finalized.
 - a. The City Manager's office reached out to the Historical Commission concerning the America250MI Grant applications available from the State of Michigan. Applications were due January 15, 2026. Liaison Mellem worked with the FHHC

and put forward a Grant application for \$ 23,000.00, with a match of \$ 3,500.00 put forward by the Special Services Department. This grant money would be used to fund exhibition development at the Spicer House.

C. Historical Markers-

1. Palmer Sherman: Liaison Mellem reached out to the appropriate parties as to the preferred location of this marker. The Special Services Department will install this marker as weather permits.
2. Boys Republic- Liaison Mellem reached out to the developer for the Wellsprings Site. After being informed, the developer will consider assisting with this as the project progresses.
3. Power's Station: Ongoing.
4. "QR" Codes: On hold.

D. Publications –

- a. Universalist Unitarian Church monograph, ongoing.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- A.** Concerning the Farmington Underground Railroad Banner, Golden mentioned that the price for a new banner would exceed the cost previously estimated.

MOTION by Scott, supported by Willyard, to have Brian Golden generate a quote for a Farmington Underground Railroad Banner for the FHC for a cost not to exceed \$ 700.00.

Motion carried 4-0.

- B.** Baxtresser shared with the Commissioners the resignation letter from Eli Levsky, who has taken a job with The Des Plaines History Center in Illinois.

7. POINTS OF INTEREST: None.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Resignation letter Eli Levsky.
2. Correspondence with Carol Egbo (OCP) concerning the America250MI Grant.
3. Correspondence with Jerry Knapp of Spaces to Experiences concerning exhibit development timeline.
4. Correspondence concerning Palmer Sherman marker location.
5. Correspondence concerning Boys Republic marker location.
6. Copy of draft application for the America250MI grant Application.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Baxtresser expressed his gratitude to James Hulett and his wife, Beth, for their contributions to the America250MI Grant application. He also extended that appreciation to the newly assigned FHHC liaison, Kirsten Mellem, for her instrumental help with the grant application.

11. LIAISON ACTION ITEMS: None

12. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:28

NEXT MEETING: February 25, 2026, at **7:00** pm in the Community Room of City Hall,
3155 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48336

Respectfully Submitted,
Earl Baxtresser,
Recording and Corresponding Secretary