MEETING MINUTES FINAL
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
October 14, 2026 at 6:30 P.M.
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48336
www.fhgov.com

1. Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm
2. Roll Call
   Members Present: Emily Howard, Steve Olson, Jim Paulson, Alec Thomson, Marleen Tulas, Ken Klemmer (arrived at 6:40 pm)
   Members Absent: John Trafelet
   Others Present: Kirsten Mellem (HDC Staff Liaison), Valerie Knol (City Council Liaison)
3. Approval of Agenda
   Ted Davis, Director of Special Services not available, to be rescheduled (7A removed). Motion to approve revised agenda by Olson, supported by Paulson. Motion carried 6-0.
4. Unfinished Business
   None
5. New Business
   None
6. Committees
   A. Cemetery Restoration
      Utley Footstones: Schoolcraft College students, under guidance from Thomson, are in the process of matching footstones (initials only) with the known family markers in Utley. Results to be provided in November / December.
      Brownell family plot: has deteriorated iron fencing and concrete posts. Klemmer and Olson to prepare plan/draft RFP.
      Scout volunteer activities: next planned schedule for Spring 2027

   B. Potential Historic Resources: no new sites under review.

   C. Sarah Fisher SubCommittee
      Site visit to review status of the Chapel scheduled for November 16, 12- 1 p.m.
      .
      Reminder that the planned preservation/restoration work on the Chapel has not been reviewed by the HDC, no CoA issued, and a review should be scheduled following the site visit and before work commences.

7. Points of Interest/Updates

   B. SHPO CLG Grants
      Opportunity to seek a grant for a study covering engineering structural repairs on the Spicer House (noted that currently floor jacks are providing supplemental support). City engineers Hubbel Roth & Clark have done some reviews; may be able to provide advance estimate of related fees. Liaison Mellem to prepare; schedule for submission noted.
      Council Liaison Knol noted that City is still negotiating with Oakland County Parks regarding the park.

C. 200th Anniversary of Millers Cottage and Philbrick Tavern
Proclamation and House Plaques reviewed.
Proposal for two (2) cast bronze house plaques from Franklin Bronze (12" x 8", polished with green background) at a cost of $322 per plaque plus shipping approved, subject to confirmation that the letters are raised and polished.
Proposal to approve and fund from HDC budget. Motion Klemmer, 2nd Howard.
Approved 6-0.
Proclamation text reviewed; for Miller's Cottage to replace house in every case.

D. MHPN Workshops for Historic Homeowners
Discussed opportunity to sponsor event/presentation under the umbrella of Energy Efficiency for Historic Homes. Plan in Fall / Winter, target event for spring.

8. Correspondence
None
9. Public Comment
None
10. Commissioner Comments
Klemmer: Klemmer reported on discussions with Eleanor Spicer-Strong at the Heritage Days event where Spicer House was open for tours; she is now open to sharing the Spicer family archive of photos, documents, etc. (Opportunity for digitizing, perhaps intern, video tour of the Spicer House, etc.).
Klemmer, Tulas and Howard to follow-up with a visit to her home in Chelsea to inspect the archive. Once there is an assessment of what is available and what is to be done with the materials, then can set up a Spicer House History Subcommittee.

Olson: Olson reported that they have determined the location for re-installation of the Aldrich House historical marker; Mellem looking at a couple of details yet to be resolved.

11. Staff Comments
Liaison Mellem noted that Howard, Thomson and Trafelet are due for reappointment. Trafelet not seeking reappointment; hence HDC should be seeking applicants. Mellem reminded that budget for 2026/27 is $12,500 (in part responding to the cemetery preservation needs).
12. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
A. September 16, 2026 – No changes required. Motion Olson, 2nd Howard, approved 6-0

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Drafted by Steve Olson, HDC Secretary.