

MINUTES
FARMINGTON HILLS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
August 13, 2025 @ 6:30 P.M.
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS MI 48336
WEBSITE: WWW.FHGOV.COM : PHONE (248)871-2540

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Klemmer at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Jim Paulson, Marleen Tulas, Ken Klemmer, and Emily Howard

Members Absent: Steve Olson, Alec Thomson, and John Trafelet

Others Present: Diane Mulville-Friel (Planning & Community Development Department)

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Marleen Tulas, support by Jim Paulson.

Motion carried 4-0.

4. New Business

A. Certificate of Appropriateness 25-6

Historic District: HD #: 504 – Kirby House

Location: 24200 Farmington Rd

Applicant: Wayne Elliott

Owner: Wayne Elliott

Proposal: Fence – install ~ 100 feet of wrought iron fencing along the east lot line. The proposed fence will be 6 ft in height in the side and rear yard and 3 ft in height in the front yard.

The Commissioners reviewed application submitted and discussed where the new fence was proposed. Commissioners were in favor of the wrought iron fence material and determined that it would be complimentary to and not detract from the historical home. Motion by Jim Paulson to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness (25-6) as submitted, support by Marleen Tulas. These updates are aligned by Department of Interior standards #2 and #10.

Motion carried 6-0.

5. Old Business

Ken Klemmer recognized that the Hoyt House (Historic Site #207) located at 36668 Howard was for sale. Emily Howard called up the listing and noted that the sales price was listed at \$195,000 and that there was a pending offer. She also noted that the listing mentioned the house was the historic "SCHROEDER FAMILY" home and not the Hoyt House. She mentioned that there had been a "Workers Camp" in Farmington, MI associated with the Communist Party in the early 1930s, and there may have been a connection to this camp and the Schroeder family.

6. Points of Interest/Updates

A. HDC Letter Re: Oaklands Subdivision Paving Project

Ken Klemmer commented on the letter drafted by Steve Olson for the HDC to consider submitting to the City Council to encourage the City to seek flexibility from the modern, rigid road standards that allow for the preservation of the historic nature of the neighborhood. He recommended that the draft be revised to mention the old growth trees and limited setbacks of the historic homes and that the roadway improvements and widening would most likely affect these characteristics.

Marleen Tulas said she was impressed with the letter and supported Klemmer's revisions. She also asked if the City's Special Services Department has an arborist on staff who may be able to opine on the potential impact that a proposed Oaklands Subdivision paving project may have on some of the landmark Oaks along the roadways. Ms. Mulville-Friel will follow up with Special Services to see if they can provide any assistance.

B. Cemetery Monument Restoration Project Update

Steve Olson and John Trafelet head up the Cemetery Restoration Projects and were not present to provide an update. Commissioner's discussed potential options to attract volunteers for upcoming cleanup and restoration efforts.

Emily Howard and Marleen Tulas suggested reaching to see if the City's Community Engagement can assist with writing an article for the City e-News or possibly the City's Social Media site to get the word out about cemetery restoration efforts taking place. Emily Howard expressed an interest in helping to writing a short article and Marleen Tulas suggested an article that focused on the letter received from a descendant of Asa and Polly Adams who are buried at the Utley Cemetery. The letter described their appreciation of the restoration work completed on Asa and Polly Adams' tombstones.

C. HDC Budget Update

Approximately \$9,987 was rolled over from 2024-2025 budget into the 2025-26 budget year plus \$2,500 of new. The current budget sum available is approximately \$12,500.

D. Recap of 100th Anniversary Celebration

Ken Klemmer reported on the celebration marking the anniversary of his home (Oakewood Cottage) and Oaklands Subdivision held August 2 from 10 – 3 p.m. He said they had a great turnout with approximately 120 people attending throughout the event. Small group tours of the home were provided, and ice cream was served.

7. Public Comment

None

9. Commissioner Comments

- Howard follow-up with Janice Steeg of Eri Prince House #204, and determined that Janice was looking for documents that were previously donated to the city surrounding the historic district. Staff looked for said documents in the City Hall basement archives and found none related to the Eri Prince House #204.
- Klemmer – None.
- Paulson – Asked for an update on the Sarah Fisher Project. Staff will provide update at the next meeting.
- Tulas – ascertained that Mr. Micheal Neal of the Marcus Burrowes House #502 needed a copy of the HDC “Blue Book”. He had mentioned this at the Spicer House event. Tulas phoned Mr. Neal to let him know that he can pick a Blue Book up at the Planning Department in City Hall.

10. Approval of Minutes – July 9, 2025

Motion by Tulas to approve minutes with minor amendment to clarify that the letter of appreciation was from descendants of Asa and Polly Adams who visited the Uteley Cemetery. Motion supported by Howard.
Motion carried 4-0.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Paulson, supported by Howard.
Motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment at 7:28 pm

Submitted by Diane Mulville-Friel (8/20/2025)