

MEETING MINUTES
FARMINGTON HILLS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
City of Farmington Hills
The Heritage and History Center
December 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
www.fhgov.com
248-871-2540

1. Chairman Hulett called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT: James Hulett, John Willyard, John Scott, Earl Baxtresser, Joe Derek, Eli Levsky.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

LIAISON FROM CITY: Absent

OTHER PRESENT: None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Baxtresser, supported by Willyard, to approve the agenda as published.
Motion carried 6-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Willyard, supported by Derek, to accept the minutes of October 22, 2025.
Motion carried 5-0.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Museum Accession/De-Accession Reviews: Golden gifted to the H&HC, a two-volume set: Ft. Pontchartrain at Detroit, by Timothy Kent.

MOTION by Baxtresser, supported by Willyard, to accept these items into the collection.
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Museum Improvement- Spicer House Move:

- a. The group discussed not receiving a response from the Special Services Department regarding the relocation of the H&HC to the Spicer House, especially about a letter that was recently sent to Bryan Farmer.
- b. It was agreed that Golden would reach out to Bryan Farmer, and Baxtresser would reach out to Carol Egbo.

C. Historical Markers-

- 1. Palmer Sherman: Baxtresser shared the FHHC's desired location for this marker with Diane Mulville-Friel. She said she would pass this information on to the other stakeholders.
- 2. Boys Republic- Baxtresser shared information about reaching out to Diane Mulville-Friel and Charmaine Kettler-Schmult about locating this marker on private property. The lack of response was concerning.
- 3. Power's Station: Ongoing.
- 4. "QR" Codes: On hold.

D. Publications –

- a. Universalist Unitarian Church monograph, ongoing.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Golden suggested that the FHHC explore the possibility of purchasing one of the Underground Railroad display banners (3' x 6') for use in the displays at the Spicer House.

MOTION by Baxtresser, supported by Willyard, to have Brian Golden purchase a Farmington Underground Railroad Banner for the FHHC for a cost of no more than \$ 500.00

Motion carried 6-0.

B. Hulett shared his research using Gemini AI to transcribe his grandfather's handwritten letters written during World War I. Transcriptions were accurate, dated, ordered chronologically, and added further analysis.

C. Willyard shared with the Commissioners a recent addition to his collection: a "Model 1803 Harpers Ferry Rifle". Willyard gave the Commissioners a detailed presentation on Model 1803 with photographic details depicting how this particular rifle, after over 200 years, is in an almost 100% original condition, attributing to its profound rarity.

D. Baxtresser shared with the Commissioners a small map of the state of Michigan he made depicting the Base Line and Meridian Surveys, which started in 1815.

7. POINTS OF INTEREST: Hulett welcomed our recent addition to Farmington Hills Historical Commission Eli Levsky. Mr. Levsky previously lived in Chicago.

8. CORRESPONDENCE: Emailed letter to Bran Farmer, emailed letter to Diane Mulville-Friel, and an emailed letter to Charmaine Kettler-Schmult.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Because of the snowy weather, it was noted that the November meeting, which is usually pushed to December, will take place at City Hall in 2026.

11. LIAISON ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Further discussion with Diane Mulville-Friel for the Boys Republic Historic Marker.
- b. Status of move to Spicer House.

12. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40

NEXT MEETING: January 28, 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