MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, 18 September 2019 – 7:00 pm

Monroe County Museum – 126 South Monroe Street – Monroe, Michigan 48161

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of 14 August 2019
5. Public Comment
6. Committee Updates
   - 6.1. Executive Committee
   - 6.2. Awards Committee
   - 6.3. Markers Committee
   - 6.4. Projects Committee
   - 6.5. Long Range Planning Committee
7. Old Business
8. New Business
   - 8.1. Monthly Museum Report
9. Public Comment
10. Commissioners' Comments
11. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 9 October 2019 at 7 pm at the Monroe County Museum, 126 South Monroe Street

2019 MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSIONERS	2019 COMMITTEES
Chairman: Brian Egen, District 6	**Executive Committee**
Vice Chairman: Jeremy Potter, District 1	*H. Nels, J. Potter, T. Heywood, A. Clark, B. Egen*
Secretary: Thomas Heywood, District 2	**Projects Committee**
Commissioner: Mary Strevel, District 3	*M. Humphries (c), W. Conner, B. Egen (ex officio)*
Commissioner: L William Conner, District 4	**Marker Committee**
Commissioner: Richard Micka, District 5	*J. Potter (c), N. Guthrie, M. Humphries, B. Egen (ex officio)*
Commissioner: Vacant	**Awards Committee**
Commissioner: Michael Humphries, District 8	*M. Strevel (c), T. Heywood, B. Egen (ex officio)*
Commissioner: Nicholas Guthrie, District 9	
Immediate Past President: Hobby Nels	
Commissioner Emeritus: Richard Sieb	

Mission Statement of the Monroe County Museum

At the Monroe County Museum, we fuel and cultivate our visitors' curiosity through the exploration of Monroe County's rich and varied stories, joining together to unearth meaning and illuminate relevant connections between the past, present, and future.

MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
August 14th, 2019 at the Monroe County Historical Museum

Present: Brian Egen, Chairman | Jeremy Potter, Vice-Chairman | Tom Heywood, Secretary
William Conner, Member | Michael Humphries, Member | Hobby Nels, Past Chairman
Richard Micka, Member | Richard Sieb, Emeritus | Mary Strevel, Member
Tony Trujillo, Member | Absent: Nick Guthrie, Member

Museum Staff: Andy Clark, Director | Lynn Reaume, Curator of Collections
Guests: David Hoffman, County Commission | Jeanne Micka, Sawyer Homestead
Sue Donovan, Friends of Potter Cemetery | Donna Braden, The Henry Ford

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Egen and roll was called.

Motion was made by W. Conner, seconded by R. Micka to accept the meeting agenda; approved.
Motion was made by M. Humphries to approve the July 10th meeting minutes, seconded by R. Sieb; approved.

Monthly Museum Report: In lieu of a printed report Director Clark gave a verbal one: Lynn Reaume was now in Collections and the Programs position posted; he thanked museum-related fair volunteers among the commission; the Papermill School archaeological testing is complete and now are waiting for the final report; Tales By Twilight will be on August 22nd and the final Leisure at the Lake on the 28th and he handed out invitations to the board from the Dundee Old Mill announcing the opening of their new Smithsonian traveling exhibit on Sept. 6th.
Motion was made by W. Conner to accept the July reports; seconded by M. Humphries; passed unanimously.

Public Comment #1: Jean Micka invited the board to attend a free lecture at the Sawyer Homestead on Sunday, Sept. 29th at 2:00 concerning Mr. Roddy, a WWII flying ace.

"Roadmap for the future:" the Strategic Planning Session with Consultant Donna Braden from the Henry Ford- including Chairman Egen of the Henry Ford- occupied the majority of the meeting.
She recapped what the commissioners had worked on in November, 2018 and highlighted the main priorities as:

- Audience awareness and responsiveness
- Increased community focus
- Responsible public history practice
- Enhanced guest experience
- Good stewardship of our assets

These she continued to break down with specifics within the StEPS guidelines to help create the activities that will lead to action. She used the Territorial Park as an example of how these guidelines can be outlined, scrutinized and lead to solid future action. She led an activity that continued to rank among the members and staff issues involved with the museum. Vice-Chair Potter will compile the results.

It was pointed out that the prioritized actions, though mapped out as to expected- or hoped for- timeline would be the most flexible, depending on available staffing, funds, weather, etc. By having such a well-thought out plan, this will be of great benefit in justifying, exhibiting and explaining museum priorities to the voters and the county commission.

Her expertise and thorough knowledge of museum procedures and concepts are of huge value and her guidance has already been very beneficial.

Public Comment #2: County Commissioner Hoffman congratulated the board for their efforts.

S. Donovan updated the group's fundraising and accomplishments, including obtaining new row markers for the cemetery.

Commissioner comments: it was unanimous in voice and thought in appreciation of Ms. Braden's support and encouragement during this process.

T. Trujillo, who had been reappointed to the commission since the last meeting, thanked the board for their participation in the spring's Service Awards evening.

With no other business, the meeting was called to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. by motion of R. Sieb, seconded by M. Humphries and the meeting was closed.

Lynn W. Reaume
Recording Secretary
15 August 2019

PROGRAMS Report for August, 2019

TOURS:
6th: Triumph Academy Downtown Day 10-2 p.m. rotating through the museum's 2 floors and elsewhere (200)

KITS: none used.

EVENTS:
2nd: Downtown First Friday: Mid-Century Monroe (50)

PROGRAMS:
22nd: "Tales By Twilight" with Gerry Wykes & staff at the Trading Post (75)

SENIOR VISITS:
6th: Lisa Gessner at Brookdale, Monroe ( )
15th: Megan Mullins at Fountain View, Monroe (25)
21st: Megan Mullins at the Milan Senior Citizens Center (5)

SCOUT EVENTS: none scheduled.

MISC:
1st: Rachel Reaume hosted visiting Japanese students and Dundee students (9)

21st: This was the monthly Frenchtown Spinners Guild meeting (10) which is open to the public.

31st: Colonial Living Weekend with Compeau Company at the Trading Post (100). This event continued into September 1st.

I did not participate in Programs in August except continuing some scheduling and meetings on Lantern Tours, Custer Week and a Programs Meeting to bring everyone up to speed.

Lynn W. Reaume
Past Curator of Programs
9 September 2019

COLLECTIONS/Archives Report
For August, 2019

Research room topics for August:

Dentel family	Ziegler/Schafer families	Obituaries XI
Strasburg, MI	The Recording Angel statue	Navarre IIII
Sachs/Haines family	House research	Tel-Egypt Garage
Heck School	St. Mary & Ste. Anne Catholic churches	Marchese
The Custers	LaSalle history	Levi Clark
R.R.C.A.	Historical Society	LaVoy family
Eby family	Herr family	17th Michigan Infantry
Monroe Lighthouse	Brancheau family	POW camp in Dundee
Keegan & Ready families	Pickled Pear recipe	Misc. buildings

Research contact for August:
Period photographs from 1850/1860 for Trading Post
Tip Top Lunch, West Front St.
Haskell image
McIntyre residences
Clarence Ed. Breeding, artist
Tom Baxter
Christiancy letter to George Custer
Milwaukee Road farm
Greening house, 308 East 5th St.

Updated finding aids to:
Deeds, Mortgages & Abstracts
City of Monroe Publications & Records
City of Monroe Planning Commission
Fermi Plant Collection
MAECO Collection
Political Activity Collection
Railroads & Interurbans
Zion Lutheran Church Collection

New Accessions & main content:
2019.17 Ralph Naveaux- Dave Grassley photographs
2019.18 Ruth Ann Smith- Ida High School band complete majorette uniform
2019.19 Plymouth Historical Museum- Fix/Durocher christening gown and coat
2019.20 Janet Johnson- postcard & souvenir Monroe image booklet

Preparing Processing room for use: finding places for misc. items stored in there; moved 2 bookcases to Archives room; emptied 2 cabinets for use in Archives; put essential records into 2 fireproof filing cabinets; moved rolling shelves & storage cage to Processing room…

Moved filing cabinets out of Archives to Processing.; moved map drawers; placed another rolling shelf in Stacks room for storage; combining oversized boxes to one storage area to save regular box space; moved supplies to bookcase; put more dividers into obit files; moved 2 half bookcases into personal desk space...

Lots of time spent returning misplaced documents, photographs, etc. to their homes. This will continue for months.

Lynn W. Reaume
Curator of Collections/Archives
6 September 2019

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM
Director's Report
Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director, 18 September 2019

Maintenance and Operations

Museum

As we have been absorbing all of the items exhibited from the Country Store exhibit, storage space at the main museum is becoming a greater and greater issue. If we were offered a modestly sized collection, I am not certain we would be able to accept it without having to rent climate controlled storage space. Collections storage at the main museum is at capacity and I feel storing anything else at Third Street is an act of irresponsible stewardship. The only way we could relieve the issue internally would be to fill Sieb Hall with more exhibits and forfeit our public programming space on the first floor.

Territorial Park

Most of the gas line work at Territorial Park has been concluded.

Both the trading post and kitchen received new coats of paint. The work on the trading post was more thorough than the kitchen as the kitchen has a larger variety of exterior issues that need to be resolved. The kitchen should be repaired sometime next year.

Perimeter fence construction is at a standstill. The county is seeking bids from contractors to complete installation.

Building Arts and Conservation has been selected as the contractor to take on the renovation of Papermill School.

Exhibits

The duck hunting exhibit has been reconfigured from four to two cases in order to make space for an exhibit of Sieb family artifacts which is currently underway.

The new exhibit cases in the South Lobby have finally been outfitted with their own independent lighting system. A display of Christmas items will be the first to fill the space.

The four panel *Fishers of the Raisin* outdoor exhibit has been installed along the river behind Papermill School.

Redevelopment of the Papermill School exhibit spaces is in its early stages.

Our portable sturgeon exhibit that debuted at this year's Monroe County Fair, *King of Fishes*, is currently at the Bedford Library through September.

Personnel Updates
The Curator of Programs position remains unfilled.

Though it has only been a little over one month, I am quite pleased with all that has been accomplished in the Collections Division since Lynn has taken over as Curator of Collections.

Historical Markers
The refurbished *Holy Ghost Lutheran Church* marker was reinstalled by volunteers from the church. As part of the church's 175th anniversary service on 8 September, the marker was rededicated and even received a blessing.

As part of the reinstallation, it was discovered that our entire remaining stock of posts had some degree of surface damage. I got in touch with Sewah Studios and they replaced all of the posts for us. It appears that this is not the only issue they have had with their post supplier over the last few months.

Monroe County Historical Society Recognition
I have not heard from the historical society regarding the recognition text that was developed at our July meeting.