

**MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**April 13, 2022 -7:30 p.m.**

**FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM  
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS, MI**

**CALLED MEETING TO ORDER: CHAIRMAN JIM PAULSON 7:30 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ken Klemmer  
Lisa Martin  
John Trafelet  
Steve Olson  
Alec Thomson  
Marleen Tulas  
Jim Paulson

**MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Erik Perdonik (Interim City Planner & Staff Liaison), Valerie Knol (Council Liaison), Derk Pronger, COO, Beaumont Hospital – Farmington Hills, Eric Woody, Regional Community Affairs Manager – Dearborn/Farmington Hills/Western Wayne Regions

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was approved as published with addition of discussion of current status of Simmons property added under Old Business.

**MOTION BY: Olson**  
**SUPPORTED BY: Trafelet**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-0**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Discussion with Beaumont Representatives regarding Botsford Inn

Derk Pronger, as relatively new COO, has thoroughly researched internal Beaumont files regarding exterior maintenance of property and related Farmington Hills requirements. He was advised by Commission that Beaumont is welcome and has access to Farmington Hills files. Also noted was that Historic District Commission has no purview over interior maintenance and, per Pronger, facility was recently inspected by Farmington Hills Fire with some deficiencies noted that will be addressed by Beaumont.

Olson noted that, although Commission does not have purview, original intent with related removal and purchase of related property was based on premise that the primary structure be repurposed as a respite center of some type for in-house cancer patients, and that this verbal

promise was broken. It appears that this process was begun, but abandoned, as a result of economic conditions.

Pronger has a rough estimate that exterior renovations would cost about \$110,000 and that is not budgeted. Interior renovations would be in excess of \$1 million. He further stated that budgeted funds are for the medical support, related equipment purchases and other needs and support of cancer patients, not maintenance of historic structures.

At this point, Beaumont is looking for direction regarding reaching out to a potential partner and/or grants to finance. Direction was provided by the Commission. Short terms vs. long term solutions were discussed.

Eric Woody is planning to return to the May commission meeting with results of his efforts with regard to the above.

It should be noted that Frank Murray is the Facilities Manager for this property and Perdonik has contact information.

b. Sarah Fisher Site Documentation

Commission agreed that a video should be created concerning current condition of property for posterity and records and that anything related to prior condition (including narration) related to the Oral History project should be based on prior photographs and its “glory” days.

Perdonik to reach out to Farmington Hills videography department. Klemmer and Martin have both offered their support with respect to this endeavor.

Tentative discussion about redoing historic marker with a shift on focus to use of property rather than focus on Fisher family. Martin to update proposed Blue Book description to include Fisher family involvement for proposed Blue Book modification, where there are not space limitations.

c. Cemetery Project

Olson reported that a Spring clean up of West Cemetery is planned for April 23. Coordination with Farmington Hills DPW will be made regarding loan of necessary equipment.

Cleaning of markers and brush cutting is scheduled for May 7 at Utley Cemetery, with the support of Scout troops.

Klemmer to provide donuts!

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Olson recently did a drive by inspection of Simmons property, which is currently vacant. Olson believes that the owner has fulfilled Commission requirements with the exception that historic marker (in basement?) should be reposted. Bike trail favorably noted.

**POINTS OF INTEREST/UPDATES:**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:**

Perdonik to provide roster, including contact information, for current Commission members. Perdonik will be unable to attend May meeting ... on vacation ... but will provide agenda. Trafelet's attendance at May meeting is questionable pending potential surgery.

Tulas will be attending MHPN symposium in May regarding "best practices" for Historic Commissions and share.

Tulas also questioned status of engaging intern, as raised at March meeting, regarding such projects as updating Blue Book. Perdonik and Knol both advised that no stipend is available. Perdonik will contact Engineering to investigate whether they have an intern who would like to take on this special project. Knol stressed the benefits of cross training to the intern.

**APPROVAL OF 3/9/2022 MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve 3/9/2022 minutes, with immaterial spelling related revisions.**

**MOTION BY: Thomson**

**SUPPORT BY: Klemmer**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-0**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:00 p.m.**

**MOTION BY: Klemmer**

**SUPPORT BY: Unanimous**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-0**