

Minutes
Farmington Hills Historic District Commission
City of Farmington Hills
December 13, 2023 @ 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 Tulas at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Jim Paulson, Alec Thomson, John Trafelet, Marleen Tulas, Steve Olson, Ken Klemmer

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Kris Canty (Staff Liaison), Emily Howard (Resident)

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Trafelet, support by Klemmer.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business

None

5. Old Business

None

6. Points of Interest/Updates

A. Cemetery Update – John Trafelet visited with a cemetery group in Oakland County and reported that North Farmington Cemetery owners are looking to sell their business.

We have requested that David Carter come back in the Spring to continue work on headstone restoration. There is a possible Oakland County cemetery tour taking place in May. There was a discussion surrounding the inclusion of our cemeteries for part of tour.

We should follow-up with David Carter regarding his quotes for new work (2024). Steve Olson will share links for another cemetery preservationist, from Midland, that might be a possibility for completing some of our required work.

There will be a follow-up, by John Trafelet, with DPW regarding signage for cemeteries.

Marleen Tulas and Alec Thomson hung Christmas wreaths at Utley and Farmington West cemeteries. These were donated by Goetz Farms. A thank you letter will be going out from the city to the donor.

7. Correspondence

None received.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Commissioner Comments

Chair Tulas reminded the commission that the group will be reviewing the proposed Blue Book edits submitted by Duncan Thomson for acceptance.

The Nehemiah Hoyt House is being followed-up by the city. The current status of the house is that 18 citations have been issued and no appearance has been shown by the company in the court hearings. Steve Olson pointed to the possible path forward for addressing this problem would involve the city legal staff to possibly force a sale of the home with the contingent requirement that it stay part of the historic district and thus have it restored to inhabitable status.

Steve Olson suggested that the commission needs to create a regular schedule for checking in on the properties in the district and identify any substantial concerns we might have to the commission. This will be formalized at the January meeting.

Motion by Trafelet, support by Paulson. Steve Olson will follow-up with the city to request that the Nehemiah House be enclosed and protected from weather and intrusion to ensure its preservation.

Jim Paulson inquired as to the status of the changes being made to the historic schoolhouse on Middlebelt road and Northwestern. The commission had previously approved updates and changes to the property.

10. Approval of Minutes – November 8, 2023

Corrections to minutes

(Page #2 – Add word “book” after Blue)

(Chairperson Marleen should be “Chairperson Tulas” – these corrections are throughout)

Motion to approve minutes made by Klemmer, supported by Trafelet.
Motion carried unanimously.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Trafelet, supported by Klemmer.
Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment at 7:00 pm