

MINUTES
FARMINGTON HILLS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
JULY 9, 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, Alec Thomson, Marleen Tulas, Ken Klemmer, Emily Howard (arrived 6:40 pm), John Trafelet (arrived 6:40 pm)

Members Absent: Steve Olson

Others Present: Diane Mulville-Friel (Planning & Community Development Department), Valerie Knol (Farmington Hills City Councilperson), Chris and Jennifer Newman (HD# 17 – Owners), Bill and Sue Hass (Farmington Hills Residents)

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 25-5

Historic District:	HD #: 17 – Orville Botsford House
Location:	24105 Locust St
Applicant:	Chris Newman
Owner:	Chris Newman
Proposal:	Windows - replace two (2) banks of three (3) windows and exterior window trim.

Windows are worn and some are damaged. The molding around the windows does not match the rest of the building. The existing double hung windows will be replaced with casements.

Motion by Jim Paulson to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness (#25-5) as submitted, support by John Trafelet. These updates are aligned by Department of Interior standards #5 and #9.
Motion carried 6-0.

5. Old Business

None

6. Points of Interest/Updates

A. Heritage Park Stables Art Studio Incident

Diane Mulville-Friel reported that Special Services was aware that a car ran into stables from the parking lot and damaged the door. The plan is for the city to move forward with repairing the damage with like materials. Valerie Knol reported that there is work on an agreement between the city and Oakland County to have the county parks division take responsibility for some of the maintenance of portion of Heritage Park. At this stage, this is just a proposal. Discussion was raised to plan a future visit to the site by the Commission.

Motion by Jim Paulson to endorse the city efforts to repair the damage using like materials, support by John Trafelet. These repairs align with Department of Interior standards #5 and #9.

Motion carried 6-0.

B. Oaklands Subdivision Paving Project

Ken Klemmer inquired about a letter of support from the Commission regarding preserving the historic character of the area. The Oaklands Subdivision residents did vote to move forward with the paving project. The intent is still to make appeals with the Engineering Department to seek some design accommodations that would address residents' concerns.

C. Cemetery Monument Restoration Project Update

John Trafelet reported that the road commission has started to do work on the entrance to the cemetery, but currently the cemetery is inaccessible to work equipment because of dirt piles blocking the entrance. The funds from 2024-25 are being rolled into the coming year budget. These funds will be in addition to the current year's allocation. Marleen Tulas took note of 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.

D. HDC Budget Update

Valerie Knol reported that the remaining 2024-25 budget was rolled over to the coming year (2025-26). She will supply the final budget numbers to the Commission.

E. Event Planning – 100th Anniversary Celebration

Ken Klemmer reported on the celebration marking the anniversary of his home (Oakewood Cottage) and Oaklands Subdivision (August 2 from 10 – 3 p.m.). He shared a flier that was created for the event. It was suggested that the event be shared with those who attended the Spicer House event.

7. Correspondence

Bill and Sue Hass have an Emily Butterfield designed house in the Oaklands Subdivision and are interested in having it considered for inclusion in the city's historic district. Ken Klemmer informed that they should make a formal request to the Commission if they wish to pursue this option.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Commissioner Comments

Howard – Reported that resident Janice Steeg inquired about looking at some artifacts that were previously donated to the city surrounding the historic district. Emily will follow-up with her to determine more details surrounding the exact nature of these materials.

Klemmer – None.

Paulson – None.

Thomson – None.

Trafelet – None.

Tulas – Mentioned that an attendee at the Spicer House who owned an historic home did not have a copy of the "Blue Book". We should follow-up to make sure that Michael Neal receives this book.

10. Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2025

Motion to approve minutes made by Tulas, supported by Trafelet.

Motion carried 6-0.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Paulson, supported by Thomson.

Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment at 7:14 pm

Submitted by Alec Thomson (7/10/2025)