

**\*\*CORRECTED\*\* MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF HIGHLAND HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
LOUIS LATZER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 1001 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET, HIGHLAND, IL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024  
6:30PM

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:**

Officers:	Present	Absent
Jacob W. Rose – Chairperson	X	
Jeff Menz – Secretary	X	
Sara Knobloch	X	
Joe Garson	X	
Sarah Finley		X

**MINUTES:**

Motion – Approve Minutes of the August 22, 2023 Historical Commission Meeting  
Motion passed by voice vote.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Anyone with anything to address the Historical Commission may do so at this time.

- One guest in attendance: City of Highland Councilmember Peg Bellm.

High points of the discussion between Councilmember Bellm and the Historical Commission: Bellm recommended getting direction for our Commission from the City of Highland City Council. The Commission was not given direction, an agenda, money, or authority to do anything. Any money the Commission might want will not be available in 2024 as money for the City is tight due to projects that have been put off over the past few years. The City code enforcement group is much tougher now than previous years, at least with homes and less with businesses. A project the Commission could take on is providing information on the kiosk on the northwest corner of Walnut Street and Main Street. Do the work, take photos of the completed project, get the info in the Pioneer newspaper, who helped, get exposure. Somewhat related, is the bell in the bell tower by City Hall the original bell? It may be the bell from the old firehouse. Installation of a simple plaque on the bell tower could get more exposure.

Other projects and potential projects to elevate the visibility of the Commission include:

- The building survey (still in progress),
- Century Structure Project (recognition of buildings greater than 100 years of age. Approximately 26 properties identified, homeowners might pay for the sign/plaque. The Highland Historical Society keeps records of these structures. Perhaps set up a walking/driving tour in time for the 2037 Highland Bicentennial celebration.
- Renovation / Restoration of old headstones at the City Cemetery – Mark Rosen with City Parks and Rec Dept would be a good first contact.
- The original Swiss Regiment Flag from the US Civil War, if located, would be nice to display and preserve.

List all projects, prioritize, post in the Pioneer newspaper.

**REPORTS:**

- 1) Historic Properties Reports
  - Latzer Homestead –
    - Registration in the National Registry is pending and being finished up.
  - Kaeser Park –
    - Lynn Hargus is making a to-do list of projects for the site through the Highland Historical Society.
  - City Hall Bell Tower-
    - Tony Winter is the historian for the Highland fire dept and may be able to provide details on the bell. Fred Groves and Joe Garson are working on finding the correct type of wood for the finial.  
**CORRECTED – Virgil Straeter donated redwood for the finial.**
  - Suppiger House sidewalk-
    - No discussion.
  - 1000 Laurel Street (the old Marx Brothers building).
    - No discussion.
  - 1014 Laurel Street (old Journal Printing / Appel building).
    - No discussion.
- 2) Highland Historic Commission Guidelines Manual and Preservation Plan
  - Currently on hold.
- 3) Landmarks Committee (A Highland Historical Society Committee) (Commission Auxiliary)
  - Digital Archive Website
    - No new discussion.
  - SIUE Successful Collaborative Program
    - This is running long and an extension is granted.
    - No changes since last meeting.  
**CORRECTION – the Collaborative Program has been completed.**
  - Mexican-American War cannon.
    - No discussion.
  - Workers' Progress Mural.
    - The renovator has been battling health issues so no progress.
    - Assistance is needed to help write a grant to help fund the restoration project.
    - The community grant helps with the stabilization but not the restoration of the mural.
- 4) Historic Building Inventory.
  - As mentioned earlier the project is still in progress.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- The Giving Tree store at the northwest corner of Main Street and Washington Street has new owners and they are planning a restoration to the façade and adding parking at the back of the lot. They are looking for grants to offset the façade work and to maintain historical accuracy.
- There is talk on the street that the Roland Harris Highland historical collection was being dismantled and moved out of the Highland Home. Jeff Menz will contact management at Highland Home for confirmation.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion carried by voice vote.

Adjournment made at 7:41pm.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 6:30pm at Louis Latzer Public Library, small basement meeting room. Anyone requiring accommodations, provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to attend this public meeting, please contact Dylan Stock, ADA Coordinator (618-654-7115).