

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF HIGHLAND HISTORICAL COMMISSION
LOUIS LATZER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 1001 9TH STREET, HIGHLAND, IL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025
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	
Vacant Seat		

MINUTES:

Motion – Approve Minutes of the October 22, 2024 Historical Commission Meeting.
Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC FORUM:

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

- No guests in attendance.

REPORTS:

1) Historic Properties Reports

- Latzer Homestead –
 - Looking to perform a photo documentation of the homestead, enough photos but not too many in order to provide applications of the areas photographed. Include Louis Latzer information.
 - A Latzer family reunion is planned for this summer at the homestead.
 - Set up a family tree with Latzer and local related families.
 - Perhaps set up a roundtable question and answer with Latzer family members.
- Kaeser Park –
 - The old tree was removed and the hole was filled.
 - The outhouse needs woodwork replaced and the entirety repainted.
- City Hall Belfrey (previously referred to as the bell tower)-
 - We have volunteers to take care of the north trim (molding). Contact the city to arrange the work.
 - Joe Garson has the finial but is not sure it should be sandblasted as the metal seems too thin to withstand that.

2) Highland Historic Commission Guidelines Manual and Preservation Plan

- No discussion.

3) Landmarks Committee (A Highland Historical Society Committee) (Commission Auxiliary)

- Digital Archive Website
 - Librarian at the Latzer Library is moving forward with more scanning.
- Mexican-American War cannon.
 - The Highland Historical Society intern (Spencer Powers) performed a lot of the paperwork for this and will likely be completed in 2026.
- Workers' Progress Mural.
 - Completed. The Latzer Library will handle the disposition of the mural.
- Roland Harris Museum.
 - Completed. The museum is disassembled, with items returned to original owners.

4) Historic Building Inventory.

- Looking to install some sort of information at the kiosk located at the new parking lot on the 700 block of Main Street, the former location of several historic buildings. Jacob Rose and intern Spencer near completion. Need to send to the City for approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Highland Historical Society fundraiser possibility: Historical Tour of Century Properties. Interpretive signage possible through Everlasting Etch or others. Might be able to get a grant for signs through the Highland Area Community Foundation. Signs could be blue to match the new City signs. Karen Barker is interested in helping with this.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Designated Project - Highland Old Primary School Building photo survey. The Highland Community Schools administration reached out to the Highland Historical Commission about performing a photo survey and write-up for the Illinois Historic Preservation Office. This is required by the State of Illinois before demolition of the old primary school building at 1800 Lindenthal would be approved. Jacob Rose and Jeff Menz toured the building February 1, 2025 and took numerous internal and external photos. Jeff put a select 80 photos on the report and Jacob wrote up a history of the building. The report passed through Superintendent of Highland Schools Mike Sutton and then to the State for approval.
- This project led to the discussion of photo-documenting other locally historic structures in town including the Chapel at the city cemetery, The Latzer Library, the belfry, and several others.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion carried by voice vote.

Adjournment made at 7:40pm.

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:30pm at Louis Latzer Public Library, basement classroom. 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).