

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF HIGHLAND HISTORICAL COMMISSION
LOUIS LATZER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 1001 9TH STREET, HIGHLAND, IL
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026
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 February 24, 2026 Historical Commission Meeting.
Make corrections: Correct the spelling of Heffron; Boiler completed as of April 2026, not Christmas 2025.
Motion passed (with corrections) by voice vote.

PUBLIC FORUM:

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

- No visitors.

REPORTS:

1) Historic Properties Reports

- Latzer Homestead –
 - The Historical Society is collaborating with the Kirkwood (MO) historical society for ideas for community rentals to boost revenue and increase usage.
 - The homestead is looking for service projects that can be performed at/to the site.
 - The Homestead is hosting a 250th USA birthday celebration in September. Karen Barker is coordinating.
 - The submission for National Historical Registry is being edited and is scheduled to be reviewed by the State of Illinois in May 2026.
- Kaeser Park –
 - Painting is scheduled for the Spring of 2026. It is likely painting will be performed by society members.
- City Hall Belfrey (previously referred to as the bell tower) –
 - The soffit is ready for installation.
 - The finial is being reconstructed.

2) Highland Historic Commission Guidelines Manual and Preservation Plan

- No discussion.

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

- Digital Archive Website
 - Scanning continues at the Latzer Library.
- Mexican-American War Cannon

- No progress.
 - Historical Structures Program/Historical Tours
 - Beth McReynolds is working on profile sheets for properties of interest. These will ultimately be posted on the Highland Historical Society website. These profile sheets will be the basis for a formal property inventory.
- 4) Historic Building Inventory.
- No progress.
- 5) First Designated Project
- Convince Highland to be a “Certified Local Government”
 - This would allow access to federal grants for historic preservation and education.
 - Local laws could be established to get input from the Historical Commission before impacting historic structures.
 - Provide a sounding board for public comments.
 - Require a historic preservation plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The photo survey of the old primary school building 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. Tentative schedule:

Latzer Library – Jacob and Jeff, date to be determined. Intended to fill in the blanks of a previous photo survey. Submit photos for State evaluation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- We discussed several Highland properties that came to our attention over the past month. A private residence at 1113 Main Street was thought to be next for demolition to add to the expanded parking lot cattycorner from the Weinheimer. Investigate and get photos of the structure.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

Motion carried by voice vote.

Adjournment made at 7:36pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 6:30pm at Louis Latzer Public Library, downstairs small meeting room. Anyone requiring accommodations, provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to attend this public meeting, please contact Jackie Heimburger, ADA Coordinator (618-654-7115).