

**Historic District Commission
Minutes Of May 21, 2025**

151 Martin Street, City Commission Room 205, Birmingham, MI

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Historic District Commission ("HDC") held May 21, 2025.
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1) Roll Call

Present: Chair Dustin Kolo; Board Members Timothy Collins, Gigi Debbrecht, Natalia Dukas, Patricia Lang, Michael Willoughby; Alternate Board Member Mary Jaye

Absent: Vice Chair Keith Deyer; Alternate Board Member Steven Lemberg

Staff: Planning Director Dupuis; City Transcriptionist Eichenhorn

2) Approval of the HDC Minutes of May 7, 2025

05-06-25

Motion by Jaye

Seconded by Willoughby to approve the minutes as submitted.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Kolo, Debbrecht, Willoughby, Jaye, Lang, Dukas, Collins

Nays: None

4) Courtesy Review

5) Historic Design Review

6) Sign Review

7) Study Session

A. National Historic Preservation Month & Wallace Frost Call to Action

PD Dupuis presented the item and answered questions from the HDC.

The Chair delivered the Wallace Frost call to action.

HDC member comments were as follows:

- It would be beneficial to offer a similar call to action regarding historic homes in general in the near future.
- While resident engagement with the topic has been modest to start, these efforts signal that historic preservation is important to the City and provide the foundation for future momentum.

- Having meetings of Wallace Frost homeowners could be interesting.
- There has been discussion of having meetings of owners of historic buildings, residential and commercial, in the past.
- These meetings could be held at the Birmingham Museum.
- It could also be helpful to have meetings of subcategories of historic property owners akin to a Wallace Frost-specific meeting.
- The meetings should offer light refreshments and offer information on next steps towards historic designation.
- The HDC can work towards dispelling concerns about historic designation that are based on misunderstandings and misinformation.
- The Planning Department should track which residents in historic homes reach out to inquire about historic designation. The Department could then touch base occasionally to see if further interest has developed.

B. 1283 Buckingham – Historic Plaque

PD Dupuis provided background on the process of historically designation 1283 Buckingham.

The historic plaque was presented to the Deyers, who were in attendance virtually.

HDC member comments were as follows:

- The plaque was aesthetically pleasing, well designed, and of high quality.
- PD Dupuis' efforts to advance historic preservation in the City were appreciated.

Public Comment

The Deyers also recognized PD Dupuis for his efforts to advance historic preservation in the City.

Jennifer Roush of the HDSC and Marty Logue of the Museum Board were also in attendance to mark the occasion.

8) Miscellaneous Business and Communication

PD Dupuis provided an update on the status of the historic preservation master plan and on his experience at the recent Michigan Historic Preservation Conference.

A. Pre-Application Discussion

B. Draft Agenda

C. Staff Reports

- 1. Administrative Sign Approvals**
- 2. Administrative Approvals**
- 3. Demolitions**
- 4. Action List**

D. Communications

9) Adjournment

No further business being evident, the HDC motioned to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

A blue ink signature, appearing to read "Nick Dupuis", written in a cursive style.

Nick Dupuis, Planning Director

A black ink signature, appearing to read "Laura Eichenhorn", written in a cursive style.

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist

APPROVED