HISTORICAL COMMISSION
September 14, 2026
OFFICIAL MEETING

PRESENT	ABSENT
Martin Balzer	Mike Bruntz
Levonne Cescolini -Boyer	John Navrocki
Mayor Tom Hundley	
Kimberly Last	
Mike Provinzino	
Christopher Pudelek	

ALSO PRESENT:
Emily Hirst, Museum Coordinator
Doree Krage, Staff Liaison

With a quorum being present, Chairman Pudelek called the official meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

Minutes: With a motion by Commissioner Provinzino and seconded by Commissioner Balzer, the official minutes of the March 9, 2026 meeting were approved unanimously.

Introduction: Community Relations Director Doree Krage introduced Emily Hirst, the newly hired Museum Coordinator to the Commission. Hirst was promoted on August 31, 2026, after the announcement of Susan English's retirement and ending the Summer Seasonal Position. Doree communicated how productive having an overlap for training was.

Historical Museum Updates: Emily reported on the museum's recent awards and accolades, applied for by Susan English. The Friendship Plaza Walking Tour and Brochure won the 2026 "Best of Illinois History Award" from the Illinois State Historical Society. The Museum also won from the Illinois Association of Museums "Anniversary Award", "Award of Merit for Community Partnerships" and "Award of Excellence for Virtual Materials".

ASD4 School visits in May were successful. Seven schools sent their second-grade classes to visit the Museum Campus, Driscoll Hallway, met with the Mayor, and went to the Library. 41 teachers and adult chaperones and 329 students participated in the field trip, for a total of 370 bodies inside the Coach House and Century House. Mayor Hundley recalled some of the questions he was asked. He was able to walk around more and answer more questions, since the Library renovations allocated more time at Village Hall. He also gave out "I Met the Mayor" stickers, designed by Jenna Witt. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer indicated it was a great way of getting the students involved in local government. In 2027, the fourth-grade classes will be taking the field trip, instead of second grade. Emily and volunteers will be tailoring the tours to fit the curriculum and age range.

Emily shared some aspects of the Museum's 50th anniversary celebration, on July 2, 2026. Several Commissioners and Board members spoke, there were refreshments, and a time capsule was dedicated to be opened on July 4, 2076. An image of the time capsule was sent to the Eighth Congressional District's team, upon request. The Village of Addison was the first governing body to submit an entry.

Emily reported the final visitation numbers for Rock 'N Wheels. In 12 total weeks, 2,914 guests went inside one of the museum buildings and/or interacted with the historical portrayers, up from 2,289 in 2025. The Museum had 726 guests, Century House 482, Coach House 423, Village Green tent 494 (one week was not tracked, so the actual number is higher), and portrayals 789. The most popular actor was George Washington, week one, closely followed by Eliza Hamilton, week 12, and the Revolutionary War soldiers, week 13.

Emily reported National Night Out had much higher visitor engagement in 2026 than 2025. The Village Green tent had 265 guests, many of them ringing the antique fire bell. In 2025, the tent had 122 visitors. Benjamin Franklin had 179 interactions. Chairman Pudelek believed a lot had to do with the band that was performing. Doree said the band will be switching off each year with another popular group, to help bring more awareness to National Night Out.

Emily shared that the Addison-Medinah Shriners parade was overall a success, especially given rain earlier in the afternoon. 55 non-Shriner units registered, with 52 participating. The Addison Police Department provided extra vehicles to drive the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Clerk, and Trustees down the route due to the MGM Classic Car inability to come out in the rain. The next parade will be held Sunday, August 29, 2027. Commissioners were pleasantly surprised with the visitor turnout, with the weather. The Mayor requested another appearance from the Jesse White Tumblers and the New Generation Fancy Drill Team. Emily has reached out to the Tumblers, and has secured the Drill Team.

Oktoberfest is October 16 & 17. The Museum will be open Friday from 5-7, and Saturday from 3-5. One storyteller each day will be coming to perform German folktales and stories. Both days there will be a face painter and balloon artist, Root Beer Garden with kid-friendly beverages, giving away glow in the dark cups with lids and straws, and take-home crafts co-sponsored by the Library. The layout will allow guests to watch the performers while in line for drinks and face painting. All three Museum Campus buildings will be open. The giveaway table at the Beer Tent will have an example cup and craft item to highlight the activities. It was reminded everything is first-come, first-serve.

Historical Society Updates:
Emily reported on behalf of the Historical Society.

Addison Uncorked sold 64 tickets, although not all 64 attended. The event raised $2,770, with $545.52 in expenses, netting $2,224.48. The Addison Center for the Arts, Addison Historical Society, Addison Women's Club, and each received $741.49. Next year's fundraiser will be held at the Museum Campus on Tuesday, June 15, 2027.

Fall programming for the Society is resuming at the Addison Public Library, a co-sponsor. The first program on Thursday, September 17 is Barbara Barrett, presenting "Driving Forces: 100+ Years of Women Influencing, Buying, Designing, & Driving Automobiles" at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 15, librarian John Kokoris is presenting "Great Graves", a look at notable graves and monuments in Illinois cemeteries.

Emily continued to list the events for the rest of the calendar year: Oktoberfest on October 16 &17, Candy Carnival at the Addison Park District on October 23, Mayor's Ball on November 7, and Tree Lighting on December 4 & 5. There will be a caroling troupe at the Century House on the Friday of Tree Lighting. Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer added "Wreaths Across Addison" at St. Paul's Cemetery on December 12 at 10 a.m. Her Veteran's Club students and JROTC will be placing 60 wreaths on graves of veterans. St. Paul provides a list of veterans buried in the cemetery, and the club purchases the wreaths. The event will be open to the public, who is encouraged to attend. The Village will put the information on the marquee, bulletin board, and street sign.

STEPS Committee Report: The STEPS committee not been meeting, but the workbook has been fully reviewed. Emily is working on meeting three of the goals on a very long list of standards. One is creating a Volunteer Manual, which will be reviewed by the Village. A second is annual memberships or financial contributions from board members. At the beginning of the meeting, Emily passed out packets which included renewal forms for those Commissioners who were currently inactive in memberships. Emily hopes to have some standards completed by November to hold a meeting, and to be able to ask for assistance from the Committee.

F**lags for Addison Program:** Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer stated this year her group's goal was to have 250 sign-ups. They have sold 180 flags, up from 80 in 2025. They place the flags five times a year, with the last placement on Veteran's Day. Word-of-mouth has been the most successful way of advertising. Roselle puts out

550 flags annually, and began five years before Commissioner Cescolini-Boyer's group. She would like to expand volunteers to include more adults, instead of just teenagers. Commissioner Provinzino recommended putting door hanging flyers on neighboring houses, where flags are already present.

U.S.A. 250 Committee Update: Emily reported the last in-person meeting of America250 was on September 8. Overall, activities and programs were a big success. The Museum encouraged visitors to "Ring the Bell", with high school students volunteering for five nights, totaling 32.5 hours. Museum staff and volunteers manned the station for seven nights, with 15.75 hours. Emily indicated she wished there were more students, as the adult volunteers could have been more useful elsewhere on the Campus. The Museum's 50th Anniversary coincided with America250, the parade them was America250, as well.

In District 4 each classroom did something to commemorate the anniversary, from skits, artwork, projects, songs etc. The Library did presentations, showing *1776*, book discussions, and more. The Girl Scouts released on-theme patches to be earned. The Addison Park District had their 5k t-shirts be themed, as well as changed their ad banner on their website. The group will no longer meet in person, but will email if they participate or plan anything America250 related.

Doree reminded us of the reenactors on the Museum Campus and highlighted Terry Lynch as being especially memorable as George Washington.

Other Business:
Other Business: Mayor Hundley welcomed Emily and said it was nice to see the Commission.

He also suggested the Commission should meet at the Century House, as they had done prior to 2014. Commissioners overall said they would like to change the meeting location. Chairman Pudelek agreed the next meeting would be at the Century House.

Commissioner Pudelek announced that the next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, November 9 at 3:30 p.m. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Provinzino and seconded by Commissioner Last and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 4:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Hirst, Museum Coordinator