



City Manager
Elaine Leven
City Clerk
August Gitschlag

City of Fraser

Centennial Community

Fraser Historical Commission Agenda
City Council Chambers
33000 Garfield, Fraser, MI 48026
Monday, August 3, 2026 - 7:00 PM

Mayor
Michael Lesich
Mayor Pro-Tem
Patrick O'Dell
Council
Amy Baranski
Crystal Fletcher
George-Michael Higgins
Kenny Perry Jr.
Patrice Schornak

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
5. **Liaison Report**
6. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Barn & Plant sale
7. **New Business**
 - a. Tootle Tour
 - b. Barn Sale/Society
8. **Commission Reports**
9. **Adjournment**

The City of Fraser will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 4 days notice to August Gitschlag, City Clerk, at (586) 293-3100. It is the policy of the City of Fraser that no person, on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it is responsible.

Fraser Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – July 6, 2026 @ 7:00pm

Depot Visitor Center

Present:

Commissioners: Marilynn Wright, Tom Iwanicki , Nancy Ehrke, Marti VanEenenaam-Iwanicki, Darlene Davies-Warner

Members-at-Large: Curtis Rice, Jim Chamberlin

Liaison: George Higgins

Guests: Patrick Mack

Absent: Dori Guoin

1. **Call to order:** 7:10 pm by Chair Marilynn Wright
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Tom, Second by Jim . All in favor. Motion carried.
4. **Approve June 1, 2026 Minutes:** Motion by Tom, seconded by Curtis.
All in favor. Motion carried.
5. **City Liaison Report:**
Delayed. George did give our previous requests to City Manager. City has approved budge for 2026-27.

Commission Current Concerns:

1. On financial report, what is “April 2026 Billing” charge?
2. Financial report from 2025-26 is difficult to read and understand.
 - Operating Supplies budget started out with \$0.00 balance. We were told Council approved additional \$2500 on top of regular \$500 to help with 150th celebration expenses.
 - 150th invoices were paid out of operating supplies budget that should have been paid out of 150th special account we opened.
 - Current balances on 150th account and Operating Supplies Account do not align with our calculations.
3. Commission asked liaison to find out what our Operating Supplies Budget for 2025-26 will be.
4. Commission asked liaison to check on parking lot redo. We need to know dates as we have events coming up.
5. Requested that the City Manager set up mail forwarding from the Masonic address to the City Hall address as we have had two large donation checks mailed to the museum that had to be voided and re-sent to City Hall.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Barn and Plant Sales (June 7)

Depot \$277.50

Barn \$181.50 (split with Society so both groups got \$90.75)

Plant Sale \$286.00

Museum Donations \$33

Food Sales \$51

Gift Shop \$182

Total Commission Deposit \$738.25

b. 250th Celebration

- Tom has 9-10 readers who will gather at 2:50pm at the back porch. He will ring a bell to start the Declaration of Independence reading at 3:00pm. A speaker system is still needed. Suggestion was to lock museum during reading, Depot and Barn to remain open.
- Marilyn reported she has a neighbor with large yard display of presidential portraits and Declaration of Independence. She suggested we ask if we could borrow for a few hours on July 12. Concern was expressed since they are a part of the Red, White, and You Curb Appeal Contest, we are not sure when judges will be making their rounds. Marti to find out when judging will occur.

7. New Business

a. Ram's Horn

Curtis reported he was approached by Lee, the owner of Ram's Horn who stated there "was a lady selling Baumgartner t-shirts on a Tuesday there at Ram's Horn". Lee thought the idea was a good one and encouraged us to continue. Concern was raised because we don't know who "the lady" was. Marti will take to the next Society meeting to see if they want to sell items at Ram's Horn.

b. Welcome to Darlene Davies-Warner

Commission welcomed Darlene as our newest Commissioner and Garden Director. Everyone introduced themselves and shared their roles. Darlene does have a key and was taught how to use the alarm codes.

She reported she will not be available for our August meeting due to her role as a voting precinct worker.

8. Commissioner Reports

- ***Marilynn Wright-***
 - Discussed watering the porch pot provided by DPW. This is not needed as it is a self-watering container. Darlene and Marti will monitor this.
 - Received a donation check from the Larry Mahieu Family. They are a family that comes every Christmas. The check was mailed to the museum at the Masonic address. Marilyn had them resend it to the City Hall address. Once again asked if the City Manager would set up mail forwarding with the post office.
- ***Tom Iwanicki-*** Attended BCSEM meeting on June 17. Speakers were Detroit Hives and Zack Howey with Hometown Heroes. Six members of the group came back to the Baumgartner House for a tour and spent money in the gift shop.
- ***Marti VanEenenaam-Iwanicki-***
 - Tootle Tour is happening Thursday August 6 from 4-7pm. The garden and museum will be open. We can open the barn and depot for sales and run a 50/50 raffle. The Beautification Club will offer refreshments, there will be a musician and there will be art in the garden available for Silent Auction.
 - Reported that Bill Kloski, Zack Howey's grandfather has passed away. Tom and Marti went to the visitation.

- ***Nancy Ehrke***– Sending out July newsletter on July 8
- **Darlene Davies-Warner-**
 - Has had a good turnout for the garden. Cancelled July 1 due to high heat index.
 - Reported that Betty’s iris tubers are viable and will be planted on east side of house once hostas are removed
 - Reported that boxwoods on the east side of the Depot are diseased and need to be removed. Will ask DPW to assist with removal as needed.
 - Was asked if we were selling plants at the July Open House. We do have some left over from the June sale that can be sold.
- ***Jim Chamberlin***–
 - Plans to redo the “credits” page of the newsletter and list the names of the Historical Commission.
- ***Curtis Rice***– Sold two mirrors to his grand daughter who will paint on them.
- ***Dori Guoin***– Absent
- ***George Higgins – City Council Liaison***– No additional comments (see Liaison Report)
- ***Guests:*** No additional comments

9. Adjournment: Motion by Tom, Seconded by Jim to adjourn. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm

Announcements:

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| • Next Open House/Barn Sale | Sunday July 12, 2026 1pm-4pm
Sunday August 2, 2026 1-4pm |
| • Next Meeting | Monday August 3, 2026 7pm in the Depot |
| • Special Event – Tootle Tour | Thursday, August 6, 2026 4-7pm |
| • Garden Workdays | Wednesdays 6-8:30pm
Weather Permitting |
| • Two OPEN Commissioner Positions | Term ending June 30, 2027
Term ending June 30, 2030 |

Respectfully Submitted –

Marti VanEenenaam-Iwanicki, Recording Secretary