

LHPC 2024 Annual Report

In 2024, with more than half of Commissioners newly installed, the year was spent coming up to speed on mission, function and training.

Former Commission Secretary Lyn Myers was appointed Acting Commission Chairperson for each meeting. Elections for a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be held in January of 2025.

The meeting start time was moved to 7pm to keep the start time consistent with other Village Commission meetings.

Training on the Open Meeting Act was completed for all new commissioners.

At regular meetings, information on the resources available to the Commission were reviewed including the Certified Local Government grant program, the Architectural and Historical Surveys as well as records kept by the Lombard Historical Society.

Currently the Commission plans to run with 2 standing committees, the Local Landmarks Committee and the Cemetery Committee. Appointments will be finalized by the elected Chairperson in January 2025.

Rita Schneider Day in Lombard: In recognition of her almost 50 years of service to historic preservation in Lombard, October 17, 2024 was designated Rita Schnieder day. A reception was held for her family, friends and colleagues at Village Hall. That same evening, the Village Board approved a proclamation declaring the day to be recognized in her honor.

Village planner Tami Urish was contacted by a member of the community regarding an idea for a local history project on the Great Western Trail. Dr. Patricia Rose was invited to present her idea to the Commission in October. The idea was forwarded to the Landmark Committee for further investigation.

The following list has been compiled as objectives for 2025 work by the Commission:

1. Devise a plan to migrate the 2014, 2015 and 2016 Architectural and Historical Surveys from a pdf format to a user friendly, searchable database that can be easily managed.
2. Consider options to update the survey data.
3. Prioritize a list of grant requests for the 2026 CLG grant cycle.
4. Investigation and possible planning for the Great Western Trail history project.

These projects will be undertaken in addition to handling any applications submitted for Landmark Designation status.

The Lombard Historical Society had a very busy year with a focus on the 100 year anniversary of the Little Orphan Annie comic. The museum made over 9000 connections during the year through visitors, programs and outreach efforts. Outreach engagement made up approximately

54.7% of the overall total indicating a strong focus on reaching audiences beyond Lombard's historic sites. Marketing and social media exposure both gained traction, resulting in multiple high profile media opportunities. Facebook followers increased by 43% and Instagram followers by 18%. A community survey was conducted to better understand the perceived value of events, exhibits and programs and to identify areas where improvement and growth are possible. Capital improvements were made to the Victorian Cottage in the 4th quarter. Significant exterior work was completed at the Victorian Cottage Museum replacing siding, and windows. Fundraising continues through programming and special events like the Food Truck Social. Building on the successes of 2024, goals for 2025 aim to attract a broader audience, refining messaging to better engage the community and increasing visibility through more public events and local collaborations. Exhibits, expanded tours, programming, community partnerships and fundraising efforts are all slated for the upcoming year to ensure the Lombard Historical Society remains a vital resource for preserving and sharing Lombard's history.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Myers