

**KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
Parkview Christian Academy
201 W. Center Street
Yorkville, IL 60560
5:30 p.m.
January 16, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eric Bernacki, Elizabeth Flowers, Kristine Heiman, Marty Shanahan (Arrived at 5:40 p.m.), and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman)

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Ray Epperson, Matt Asselmeier, and Wanda A. Rolf

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to approve the agenda with an amendment to move the tour of the facility until after Member Shanahan arrived. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2024, meeting. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Wehrli stated that, next month, on February 19, 2025, the Commission is having their biannual historic preservation group meeting. One (1) of the speakers, Benn Joseph, from Northwestern University Libraries, will discuss the Tribune Experimental Farm formerly located at Silver Springs State Park. Chairman Wehrli noted that the individual that use to live on the property just died.

Member Flowers asked Mr. Asselmeier to make sure the County Board was informed of the meeting. Mr. Asselmeier stated he would. Mr. Asselmeier stated that the save-the-day invitations was going out on January 17, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of 2025 Meeting with Historic Preservation Groups

Commissioners reviewed the proposed agenda and invitee list for the February 19, 2025, event. The meeting will be held at the Community Center of the Plano Stone Church at 320 S. Center Street, Plano. Food is not allowed in the church so we will go the Community Center. We will have cookies, de-cafeinated coffee, and HPC Meeting Minutes 1.16.25

water. A representative from the Plano Stone Church will discuss the history of the church, including a tour of the Plano Stone Church. Also, Benn Joseph, from Northwestern University Libraries, will discuss the Tribune Experimental Farm formerly located at Silver Springs State Park. Agenda items will also include the historic structure surveys of unincorporated Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships and 2025 Kendall County Historic Preservation Awards. There will also be a round table discussion amongst the attendees.

Discussion of Historic Preservation Award

Commissioners reviewed the past nominees that did not receive an award. The award application packet was provided. Mr. Asselmeier stated that he would prefer the nominations for Historic Preservation Awards to be sent via email or regular mail. If someone comes to the office there will be no one (1) at the Fox Street location. Chairman Wehrli asked Mr. Asselmeier if the mail will be forwarded to the courthouse on John Street. Mr. Asselmeier responded yes. If a nomination was received a day, late it would still be counted, due to the unique circumstances.

Member Shanahan arrived at this time (5:40 p.m.).

NEW BUSINESS

Tour of Parkview Christian Academy's Center Street Campus

Attendees toured the property.

Dr. Ray Epperson stated Yorkville School was built in 1887 and provided information on the property. The original construction estimate was Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$9,500). Clay for the bricks was dug from a farm about a quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) mile from the construction site. The project took sixty-six thousand (66,000) brick to build. The bricks were formed and dried in the sun on trays that held six (6) to ten (10) bricks. Member Bernacki asked where the farm that provided the bricks was located. Dr. Epperson stated he did not know exactly where the farm was, but believes it was along the Fox River.

Dr. Epperson stated that over the years there have been additions built. Between 1911 and 1922, the bell tower was removed. The building was used by Waubensee Community College as a satellite campus and it was also used as a public school.

In 1993, the building was purchased by Cal and Rena Pederson and the Parkview Foundation. The school was renamed Parkview Christian Academy.

In January 1995, the building was approved to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

In the fall of 1998, Parkview Christian Academy began holding classes for grades two (2) through six (6). Parkview has grown into three (3) campuses with three hundred ninety-three (393) students and fifty-four (54) staff members.

There are twelve (12) classrooms.

Commissioners viewed photos of students and faculty from the 1940's. Mr. Asselmeier noticed that the light switches were placed very high in some of the classrooms. The classrooms are all the same size. Classrooms do not have central air-conditioning; they have window units.

The windows have clear bullet resistant film for safety. The Wi-Fi is hardwired. The Foundation performs upgrades to the school.

Chairman Wehrli asked about the sprinkler system. Dr. Epperson responded that the building is up to code.

Some rooms have a dumbwaiter so that supplies can be brought to upstairs or downstairs classrooms.

Mr. Asselmeier asked, when the school was built, was it a consolidation of one (1) room schoolhouses. Dr. Epperson stated it yes it was. Dr. Epperson stated there was some pushback due to the amount of money it cost to construct the school.

In the early days, the school did not have electricity so it relied on sunlight or gas lamps.

Mr. Asselmeier asked if the school had plumbing. Dr. Epperson stated that the plumbing was installed later.

Classrooms have computers and a large monitor. Many students have tablets. The gym is not as large as most gyms. Locker rooms were downstairs.

The school was open during Covid. Students took different stairs so none of the students would pass each other to prevent infection. The pandemic brought more students to the school as opposed to having remote learning.

The original school bell from 1888 is still in the school.

There is a large table that was an original from the early days. It is used in the Science Lab.

There is a large classroom that is also used as a library.

Commissioners went into the basement to view the heating system. The basement still has the original foundation.

At the time it opened, the building was state of the art.

Parkview currently has preschool through twelfth (12th) grades.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of 13860 Fox Road

Mr. Asselmeier said that he has not received an update on the property. Mr. Asselmeier was unsure if Mr. Joseph will have knowledge of specific buildings.

Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County; Commission Could Determine Meeting Locations and Times

Mr. Asselmeier stated that there aren't many locations left in the County that the Commission would be able to hold meetings at this time. The Commission will continue to look for places to hold meetings.

Discussion of Native American Tribes Associated with Kendall County

Mr. Asselmeier sent an email to The Edith Farnsworth House to gather information as to what the event will be about, who the target audience will be, and what the date will be. Mr. Asselmeier has not heard back from the Edith Farnsworth House.

Mr. Asselmeier also sent an email to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. As of January 9, 2025, the Nation was researching a response. This group just acquired Shabbona Lake State Park.

Discussion of Amendments to the Kendall County Code Pertaining to Commission Review of Certain Building Permit Applications; Commission Could Recommend Amendments to the Kendall County Code and/or Approve a New Policy for Review of Certain Building Permit Applications

Mr. Asselmeier provided a list of incentives available to people that want to preserve historic structures and the proposed policy. When someone applies for a permit to work on exterior repairs, or demolish the structure, the Historic Preservation Commission would like to be notified so that they may review the application. The Commission would have to meet regarding the structure to be demolished or receive exterior repairs.

Chairman Wehrli was comfortable with the proposal.

Member Flowers added that it would empower the community to know they have a historic structure.

Mr. Asselmeier said the policy will be taken to the Planning, Building and Zoning Committee for approval.

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to approve the Policy for the Notification Of the Historic Preservation Commission of Permit Application for Alterations and Demolitions on Certain Properties. With a voice vote of five (5) ayes, the motion carried.

The proposal goes to the Planning, Building and Zoning Committee on February 10, 2025.

Discussion occurred regarding whether “a historic” or “an historic” was grammatically correct.

Chairman Wehrli asked Mr. Asselmeier if the historic structures that are fifty (50) years or older would be flagged. Mr. Asselmeier stated that there is a layer in GIS for the historic survey to flag for historic structures in Bristol Township or Kendall Township.

Member Heiman asked if Bristol and Kendall Townships were the only two (2) townships that would be flagged if there was a historic structure. Mr. Asselmeier stated alterations or demolitions in Bristol and Kendall Townships would require a meeting of the Commission for review. Mr. Asselmeier stated that the handout information could be given to any property owner in all the townships that are over fifty (50) years old doing an alteration or demolition.

Mr. Asselmeier stated that information would be placed on the website about historic structures and what the benefits are if someone owns this type of property, when people are looking for permits.

Discussion occurred regarding 1539 Collins Road from a historic preservation perspective.

Discussion of Landmarking Cemeteries and Funding Sources for Cemeteries

Commissioners reviewed an email from Ken Itle regarding the process of designating cemeteries as a landmark. Commissioners also reviewed how Little Rock Township funds cemetery maintenance. Funding sources come from taxes and the selling of plots. Member Flowers suggested asking if the community service workers could help with the clean-up of cemeteries. Mr. Asselmeier suggested having Eagle Scouts help with cleaning cemeteries. Chairman Wehrli suggested adding the cemetery clean up on the agenda for the biannual meeting in February.

CORRESPONDENCE

December 17, 2024, Email from the Edith Farnsworth House Regarding 2024 Giving Campaign

Commissioners reviewed the email.

December 28, 2024, Email from the Edith Farnsworth House Regarding Supporting the Edith Farnsworth House

Commissioners reviewed the email. Member Shanahan stated he was meeting with someone from the Farnsworth House and would ask them about the Native American Pow Wow they were having later this year. Mr. Asselmeier stated that there was some discussion about having a summer meeting at the Farnsworth House. The Farnsworth House had concerns about the House having too many people there at one (1) time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Asselmeier said the State hoped to announce CLG awards by the middle of February.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to adjourn. With a voice vote of five (5) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda A. Rolf
Part-Time Office Assistant

Enc.

In 1887 Yorkville School was designed by Henry Hebard and built by the contractor R. E. McKay. The original construction estimate was \$9500. Clay for the bricks was dug from a farm about a quarter mile from the construction site. They were formed and then dried in the sun on trays that could hold 6-10 bricks. The project took approximately 66,000 bricks.

In 1907 an addition was added to the east side of the building. This addition and the original construction were built on foundations that are dressed ashlar limestone.

Between 1911 and 1922 the original bell tower was removed.

In 1928 a larger addition was added to the west side of the building that included a gymnasium and stage. This foundation was a poured concrete foundation. Also in the 1920s, a wooden building was built north of the original building and housed seventh and eighth graders. This building was demolished in the 1960s. The original doors and windows were replaced in the 1960s as well.

In the 1970s there was a contest which changed the name to Parkview School.

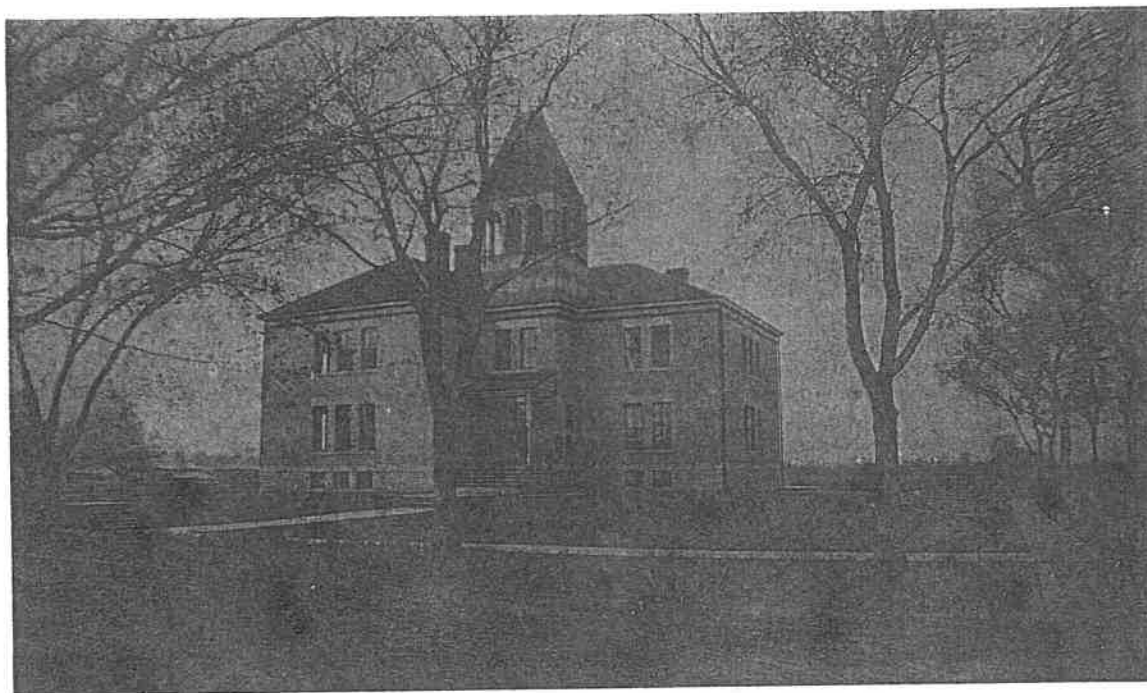
The building at one point also housed a satellite campus for Waubensee Community College.

In 1991 the last students from Yorkville District 115 were fourth and fifth graders who moved to Circle Center.

In 1993 the building was purchased by Cal and Rena Pedersen and the Parkview Foundation.

On January 24, 1995, the building was approved to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

In the fall of 1998 Parkview Christian Academy began holding classes in the building with 35 students and four staff members. The building currently houses grades 2-6 for Parkview Christian Academy and has 142 students and 20 staff members. Parkview has grown and currently has three campuses with 393 students and 54 staff members. The building is still owned by the Pedersens and the Parkview Foundation.



The Yorkville school looked like this before an addition at the right, in 1907, and extensive additions to the left. Many students apparently

arrived by buggy each day, note the steps at the left to allow them to descend gracefully from their buggies. (Photo courtesy of Vic Smith)

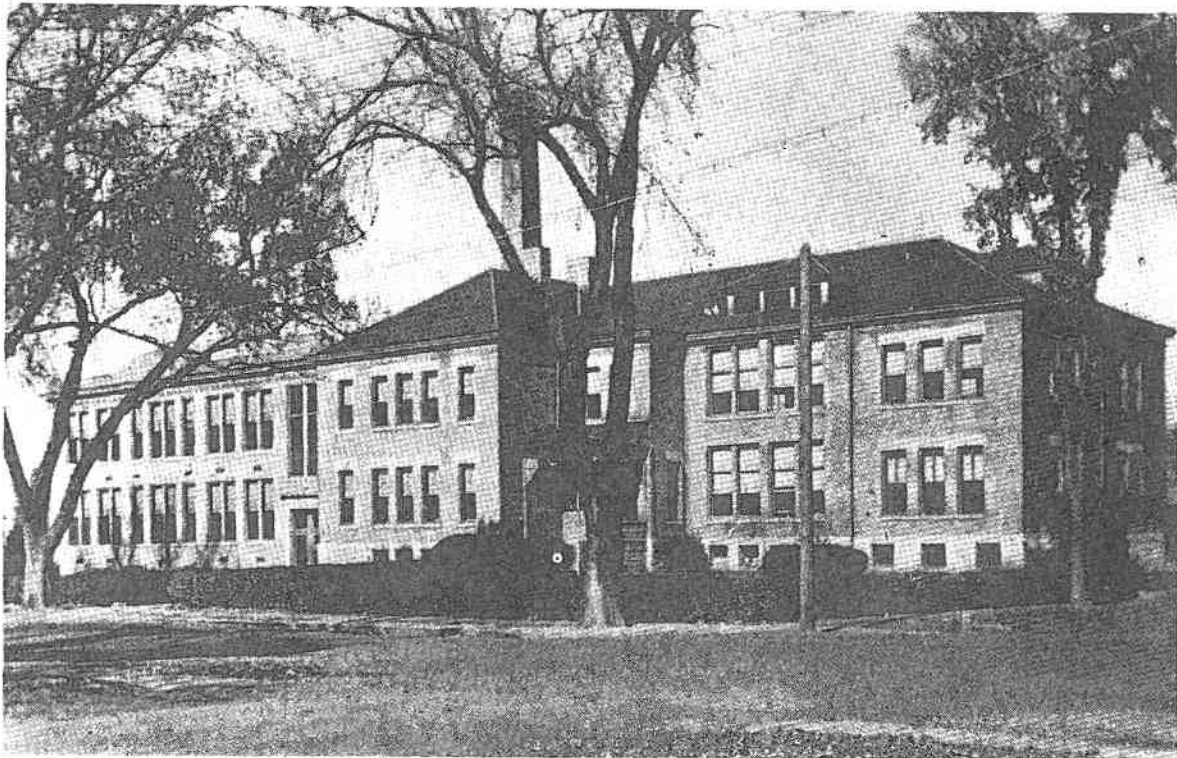


Students at the Yorkville Grade School in 1909 included, front row, third from the left Alice Tarbox, ninth Sidney Tarbox, tenth George Oakland, eleventh Roy Scofield, thirteenth Vida Lindholm; middle, first from the left, Catherine Quinsey, second Georgia Greenwalt, seventh Lester Houck,

tenth Durston Ohse, eleventh Helen Hoadley, twelfth Gladys Cain and thirteenth Gladys Williams; and, back, second from the left, Newell Voncks, third Ira Smith, fourth Ross Ruby, sixth Bertha Atkins, seventh Elsie Quiring and tenth Hilda Merkel. (Photo courtesy of Mae Houck)



One of Miss Larson's first grade classes from the 1940's. (Photo courtesy of Charlotte Larson Smythe)



By the 1940's additions to the original building made Yorkville's grade and high school look more like it does in 1986. (Photo from the 1942 YHS yearbook)

From: [kdonan](#) [REDACTED]
To: [Matt Assemeier](#)
Subject: [External]Fwd: UPCOMING PROGRAM AT CHAPEL ON THE GREEN
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 12:54:14 PM

CAUTION - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Susan Kritzberg [REDACTED]
Date: January 13, 2025 at 10:53:26 AM CST
To: Susan Kritzberg <[REDACTED]>
Subject: UPCOMING PROGRAM AT CHAPEL ON THE GREEN

Hello All!

This is just a reminder about the upcoming program at the Chapel on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 2 p.m... I created this presentation because a number of people have asked me to share some of the research that I did to complete the Network to Freedom application in 2023. It is a wonderful history that I think you will find most interesting!

- Lots of fascinating information about the early Bristol Congregational church and the part that its congregation played in the Underground Railroad here in Kendall County during the 1830's - through the start of the Civil War! I will be utilizing our new 70" screen to present a number of visual aids in the form of photos, illustrations, and maps! I hope that many of you will venture out to spend the afternoon with us at the Chapel on the Green!

Susan



Please join us at the

Chapel on the Green

107 W. Center St., Yorkville, IL

**Sunday, January 26, 2025
2:00 p.m.**

*for an informal presentation & discussion with
Chapel President, Susan Kritzberg*

“History of the Bristol Congregational Church and its involvement in the Underground Railroad”

In September, 2023, the Bristol Congregational Church (today's Chapel on the Green, NFP) was added to the National Park Service's National Underground Network to Freedom as a "Site," joining over 750 other national and international listings.

Prior to achieving this distinction for the *Chapel on the Green*, Susan spent over a year compiling information needed to complete the extensive application, and fulfill the requirement that the nomination be based on verifiable historical facts.

During this informative discussion, Susan will share some of the fascinating information that she learned about the church's early connection to a strongly abolitionist church in Volney, NY, organized in 1812 with both black and white members, and will introduce you to the nine 1836 charter members of the Bristol Congregational Church, explore the church's early history and the 1855 construction of the present Chapel building, as well as explain the church's relationship with the historical Pavilion and Bristol Baptist Churches.

This presentation will also highlight early members of those Bristol congregations who served as dedicated station keepers, drivers, and helpers on the UGRR in Kendall County during the mid-1800's, and will explore routes of the UGRR statewide and locally. Susan will talk about methods of concealment, safe houses, and church members' roles - and a selection of historical photos and early maps will be included. All in attendance will be encouraged to join in the conversation with questions or comments. We hope you will spend the afternoon with us - as we “time-travel” into the *Chapel on the Green's* colorful history!

This program is ***FREE*** (*donations are much appreciated!*)