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## Office of the Village Administrator Presentation

For Village Board Meeting of: November 26, 2018

Subject: Historical Society of the Fort Hill Country

Financial Impact:

Attachments:

1. Request from Historical Society of the Fort Hill Country (PDF)

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### Background

Attached is a request from the Historical Society of the Fort Hill Country that the Village create a Historical Commission to oversee and direct the operation of the Museum.

### Recommendation

Request from the Historical Society of the Fort Hill Country to create a Historical Commission.

11/7/2018

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE FORT HILL COUNTRY

Dear Mayor Lentz and Board of Trustees,

The Fort Hill Historical Society has served the Mundelein area for over 40 years, mostly operating from the Ft. Hill Museum at 601 East Noel Drive. This 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization has made a lasting mark in the community with its collection of artifacts, photos and memorabilia and for a variety of events and education programs. The annual Patriotic Celebration has been a beloved event each Fourth of July week, recognizing veterans, honoring our nation and displaying Mundelein's own place in history.

Our Board President and Curator Dottie Watson led this effort for at least the past 20 years, managing all aspects of the operation. With her recent passing, the remaining directors are seeking a way to maintain her legacy and to provide for the long-term preservation and collection of Mundelein's historic resources.

We are asking the Village of Mundelein to create a "Historical Commission" to guide this mission, and to provide thoughtful, consistent oversight to this important community institution.

Understanding that the current museum in the restored Mundelein train depot is owned by and located on Mundelein Park District property, we're hoping that this commission can help oversee planning for the collections, operations and public events similar to what the Ft. Hill Society has managed over the years. To begin the process, we'd assist and encourage a new commission to:

- Survey and analyze community interest levels, needs for public access to the museum and explore programming opportunities for the future.
- Fortify the agreement and relationship with the Park District for the property & maintenance, and with other organizations connected to the historic preservation mission.
- Inventory museum contents and collections to determine their value and set standards for future display.
- Assess needs for directors, staffing, volunteers and/or professional preservation management services.
- Plan appropriate events, museum hours of operation, marketing, education and research access.
- Establish projected budgets, funding sources, membership guidelines and participation standards.

We trust that a new commission would bring fresh perspectives, realistic business sense and new energy to preserving the history of our unique community. We are committed to offering our full support and resources to transitioning operations and moving forward.

Sincerely,

John Maguire, Treasurer  
 Jean Steffens, Secretary  
 Elaine Geffert, Board Member

Attachment: Request from Historical Society of the Fort Hill Country (3407 : Historical Commission)