

HISTORIC VERMILION DESIGN AND REVIEW BOARD

Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2025

Roll Call: Robbie Brown, Pat Stein, Judy Doll, Dan Pryor, Tara Leslie.

Present: Mayor Forthofer; Jeff Lucas, Council Representative; Melanie Wood, Clerk of Council

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Robbie Brown called the meeting of November 5, 2025, to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Vermilion Municipal Court Complex.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

D. Pryor MOVED; P. Stein seconded to approve the minutes of October 1, 2025. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS, 1 ABSTAIN (Leslie); MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

(Commercial) Applicant: Isabelle Duchette – 5541 Liberty Avenue (Signage)

Applicant was not present.

NEW BUSINESS:

(Residential) Applicant: David Blackman – 5750 Huron Street (Roofing)

David Blackman of 5750 Huron Street said they had a little bit of a problem with the roof and they were down to bare wood in some spots, so they completed the repairs as an emergency. R. Brown thanked him for submitting his application and attending the meeting.

P. Stein MOVED; T. Leslie seconded to approve the application as submitted and reviewed. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

(Residential) Applicant: Yoders Family Restoration – 5590 South Street (Roofing, Gutters)

Applicant was not present.

(Residential) Applicant: Leonard Korden – 783 Perry Street (Roofing, Siding, Landscaping, Fence, Exterior Paint)

Leonard Korden of 783 Perry Street said he is planning on having the soffits and fascia done with vinyl point siding on the gable sides of his home. He would also like to put a privacy fence on the south border of his rear yard. R. Brown asked if he had any photos as he did not provide any with his application. L. Korden presented the board with photos on his phone. R. Brown confirmed the siding would be white. L. Korden answered yes, and the fence will be white as well. D. Pryor asked what kind of landscaping he was planning on. L. Korden said he thought landscaping was part of the fence, and he would be taking a tree down on the property. R. Brown asked if the exterior painting was the white paint on the soffits. L. Korden answered he is having a professional painter paint the soffits white.

P. Stein MOVED; D. Pryor seconded to approve the application as submitted and reviewed. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

(Commercial) Applicant: Margaret Wakefield Worcester – 727 Grand Street (Steps)

Margaret Wakefield Worcester said she was representing the Vermilion History Museum and they needed to replace their step, which was one step and was quite steep. They removed it in order to put in two wider steps which will be shorter rise with a handrail which will go in between the double door. It will be removeable if they need to get something larger in or out of the door. The members of the board all agreed that it was a great idea.

Mayor Forthofer asked if it would be a traditional seven-inch riser on the steps. M. Wakefield said she thinks it will be a little shorter than seven inches. J. Doll said that could be problematic. Mayor Forthofer said the Building Department can discuss the height of the step with her. M. Wakefield asked if seven inches in height was standard. Mayor Forthofer answered yes. D. Pryor said it looks like it will be a 5.5-inch rise. Mayor Forthofer said the Building Department will do a pre inspection and can let them know if it would be okay.

R. Brown MOVED; P. Stein seconded to approve the application as submitted and reviewed in accordance with approval from the Building Department. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

R. Brown said she is so glad the city has the museum, and the group is taking their time to make sure everything is correct. M. Wakefield said getting people inside the building is a challenge, they do not get many visitors, so they rely on donations which really helps. D. Pryor said it is a nice tour they put on there. J. Lucas asked what the rough estimate is for operating costs each year which donations help pay for. M. Wakefield answered it is at least \$10,000 and they work closely with the Historical Society.

ADJOURNMENT:

R. Brown adjourned the meeting upon no further discussion.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.
Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion