

**KALAMAZOO HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**November 1, 2004
Conference Room, Community Planning & Development
445 W. Michigan Ave
Kalamazoo MI 49007**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Wright, Pam O'Connor; Chad Slider; Derl Oberlin;
Linda Bennett; Norman Jung

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CITY STAFF: Sharon Ferraro, Historic Preservation Coordinator; Karleen
Steppenwolf, Records Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Wright called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

There was no notification from Commissioner Hopewell.

AGENDA

Ms. O'Connor would like to add discussion of the conversion of two way streets as item IX.D.

Ms. O'Connor, supported by Mr. Oberlin, moved to approve the November 1, 2004 agenda. With a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

The September 9, 2004 minutes and the October 5, 2004 minutes will need to be approved.

Mr. Jung, supported by Ms. O'Connor, moved to approve the September 9, 2004 minutes. With a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. O'Connor, supported by Mr. Oberlin, moved to approve the October 5, 2004 minutes. With a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Curt Aardema is a student from Hope College.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Curt Aardema is interested in how the HPC meetings work and has questions regarding Pfizer's plans for demolition of buildings.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Ferraro will email Commissioner Hopewell regarding his attendance to the December HPC meeting.

Leslie Decker sent a letter regarding the 2004 Historic Homes Tour, stating that attendance is up. They had almost 500 people attend the tour. Ms. Decker is inquiring if the HPC would like to be a financial sponsor for next year's tour. Ms. Decker wanted to know if we would want to be a platinum sponsor for \$500. Ms. O'Connor would like the discussion of the sponsorship put on the December agenda.

There is a letter from the City Manager regarding the listing of the 100 Block of East Michigan on the National Register. Ms. O'Connor would like to see more active participation on the part to the city instead of saying we have told the owners and leave the rest up to them. Ms. O'Connor would like to see more outreach to the property owners so they understand the benefits and that there is no down side.

FINANCIAL REPORT

City: Miscellaneous expense of \$11.26 has been justified. Two miscellaneous entries were discussed. One was an invoice from MRC Industries and the other was from RJ's Printing and it was determined that they were entered in error. The entries should be taken from City of Kalamazoo monies.

O'Connor Fund: No new information.

ACTION ITEMS

Annual O'Connor Fund Appeal: Ms. Bennett was to prepare a draft of the letter, but had forgotten. Ms. O'Connor stated that the letter should go out before Thanksgiving and how do we want to handle the mailing. Ms. Bennett will draft a letter and circulate to the other members and Ms. O'Connor will update the database. Ms. Ferraro will check for letterhead and envelopes. On Monday, November 15 at 6:00p.m. the board members will address and stuff envelopes.

Recruiting New Commissioners: The board members discussed names of interested people for the commission. Ms. Ferraro suggested we look at some new people that have not been previously talked to. Curt Aardema, the guest for the evening, suggested that he may be interested in a position on the board. Chad Slider and Norm Jung would like to be reappointed to the board. Ms. Ferraro will send out applications in December. Pam O'Connor's term ends in December 2004.

ABI Vision for Downtown: Ms. Ferraro handed out a DKI brochure regarding the downtown vision plan. The commission would like to formulate questions on issues they would like to know more about for a presentation at the December meeting. Major issues will be the movie theatre and the Biomedical campus (Pfizer/Bronson campus). Ms. O'Connor stated that preservation is suppose to be public purpose in the city. Ms. O'Connor believes that there is no recognition in this plan for historic preservation and they do not recognize what already exists. Ms. O'Connor is concerned about the State Theatre, 100 Block of Michigan and the Kahn Buildings and that they are going to put the convention center right next to a local historic district. Ms. Ferraro suggested we make a list of the boards biggest concerns about the downtown. Will the historic district be in jeopardy? Will parking be an issue? Will traffic flow be a problem? How tall will these new buildings be? Why was this site chosen for the convention center and sports arena? Can the HPC become more involved in the decision making process? Can they combine a convention center together with a sports arena? Ms. Ferraro suggested if the HPC comes up with questions after studying the material to email her and she will put together a list and she will get the list out to everyone around Thanksgiving. Ms. O'Connor does not want to see any skywalks, she wants people on the street. Ms. O'Connor would like to talk to Pfizer about alternatives for the Kahn Buildings, other than demolition. Curt Aardema has sent a letter to the Kalamazoo Gazette regarding the Kahn buildings, but has not been printed as of November 1, 2004. Ms. O'Connor passed out some material she had compiled regarding the previously mentioned items.

Ms. Bennett, supported by Mr. Oberlin, moved to have a Power Point presentation at the December 7 meeting and to start the presentation at 7:30p.m. With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

Two way streets: Ms. O'Connor wants to work to convert as many one way streets back to two way as they can. Two way streets create more options and create less bottlenecks and are generally considered more pedestrian safe because the traffic slows down because it is going in both directions. One draw back is that people may lose street parking. Mr. Jung disagreed with the two way conversions. Ms. Ferraro will try and find a copy of the last commission discussion of two way streets and bring a summary to the January meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kalamazoo Lost and Found Book Report: Ms. O'Connor reported that HPC has made another \$1,000 from the books. Second printing of the soft covered books have been delivered by Edwards Brothers to the records center and the hard cover should be here in the next couple of days. The first printing of the books are still out in the stores to sell. Calendars are in the stores. The vendors only receive one invoice to pay from and no reminder notices. Ms. O'Connor will send reminder notices in the form of a letter as notices to pay. Mr. Wright will sign the letters. The HPC has a spot on WMUK to advertise. The HPC discussed other places to sell the calendars.

Church Workshop: There were 11 paying attendees, with a total of 20 people including the presenters. The workshop went off well all around. Mr. Wright listed a report on finances for the workshop. The balance left in the account is \$274.40.

Ms. Bennett, supported by Mr. Jung, moved to allow MHPN to keep the \$144.99 balance in their accounts. With a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

CITY REPORTS

Coordinator's Report – The missing post caps for the Pioneer Cemetery historical marker will cost \$250 to replace. April 14,15 & 16 is the MPHNL convention in East Lansing.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. O'Connor, supported by Mr. Jung, moved to adjourn the meeting. With a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by

Received by

Approved by