

**KALAMAZOO HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**June 14, 2005  
Third Floor Conference Room  
241 W. South St.  
Kalamazoo MI 49007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chris Wright, Derl Oberlin; Linda Bennett; Norman Jung, Chad Slider; Pamela Hall O'Connor, Claire Milne

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Josh Willson - excused

**Ms. Bennett, supported by Ms. Milne moved to approve Mr. Willson's absence on June 14, 2005 due to a misunderstanding of the meeting date. With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Wright called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**APPROVAL OF ABSENCES**

Josh Willson was absent from the meeting.

**AGENDA**

Additions to the agenda include Item IX. D. Approval of Burdick-South Street National Register nomination, E. Email from Brian Conway regarding the State Hospital Water Tower, F. Possible fundraiser.

**Mr. Jung, supported by Mr. Oberlin, moved to approve the changes to the June 14, 2005 HPC agenda. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**MINUTES**

There were no changes to the May 10, 2005 minutes.

**Ms. Bennett, supported by Mr. Jung, moved to approve the May 10, 2005 HPC minutes. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Curt Aardema – Hope college student  
Pam O'Connor – former HPC board member

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Curt Aardema again discussed his concerns about Pfizer's intention to demolish Building 25, the 12-story Albert Kahn designed research tower. He has stopped by for 10-30 minutes at a time and stood in front of the tower on East Lovell Street with signs protesting the impending demolition. There has been a demolition fence put up and both sidewalks are closed on E. Lovell Street between Henrietta and Portage. Security is watching everything that goes on around the demolition site.

Ms. O'Connor has had discussions with the Vice President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and two Pfizer representatives to discuss an alternative outcome for the research tower. The Acting City Manager thought there was a roll the City could play regarding an alternative outcome for the tower and he suggested having a meeting with a local trusted advisor. The National Trust has made offers to help in any number of ways. Ms. O'Connor will keep the board informed of any further developments.

Ms. O'Connor stated that she had heard that no one new has taken title to the property at 100 E. Michigan.

Ms. O'Connor requested a copy of the information sheet that was provided to the City Commission when the preservation awards were given. Ms. Ferraro will email a copy of the sheet to the commission members and Ms. O'Connor.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

In packets

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

City: Derl Oberlin has reviewed the financial report and approved it.

O'Connor Fund: nothing to report.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Athena Books – approval of waiving late fees of \$20.63.

**Ms. Bennett, supported by Mr. Wright approved of waiving the late fees of \$20.63 for Athena Books. With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.**

B. Preservation Strategic Plan:

Ms. Ferraro wants the board to think long term. Discussions included having a demolition ordinance in place, establishing a local landmark district ordinance, possibly setting up a revolving loan fund through CDBG funds, being able to establish temporary historic districts for a six month period and Ms. Milne would like to have someone from the HPC board at the City Commission meetings to keep the board informed. The Strategic Plan will be an on going item on the agenda.

C. Section 106 Reviews: Ms. Ferraro has reviewed some non-historic properties that are not eligible for the HPC to comment on.

D. Approval of Burdick-South Street National Register nomination:

**Mr. Oberlin, supported by Ms. Milne moved to approve the nomination to the National Register. With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.**

E. State Hospital Water Tower:

Brian Conway, State Preservation Coordinator, would like a list of people and organizations to contact that may be interested in accepting ownership of the property with binding easements. There may be an access problem for a third party because the property is land locked.

F. Fundraiser:

Mr. Wright suggested we sell posters. He had some examples from Charles Hunter, an artist from Vermont. The board members liked the work and the concept, but thought having a local artist would be more appropriate.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Lost and Found Book Project:** Ms. O'Connor suggested that we move this section of the agenda to section VIII. Financial Reports. Ms. O'Connor stated that Athena wants to sell more books and the Kalamazoo Public Library will be showcasing page 219 of the Kalamazoo Lost and Found book. Ms. O'Connor inquired if we could sell the books on Amazon.

Ms. O'Connor stated that the calendars are behind schedule. Ms. Bennett has completed the first proof and Mr. Oberlin will perform the second proof. Ms. O'Connor has taken pictures to put where the coupon page was.

#### **CITY REPORTS**

Ms. Ferraro included information in the packets to the Board

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Members of the commission expressed ongoing concern about the proposed demolition of the Pfizer/Upjohn tower.

Ms. Milne will be attending the next City Commission meeting to inform them about the Burdick-South Street National Register nomination and legislation to increase the State Preservation Tax Credit.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Wright adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

**Submitted by (Sharon Ferraro)**

**Reviewed by (Sharon Ferraro)**

**Approved by (Chris Wright)**