

KALAMAZOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

June 13, 2006
Third Floor Conference Room
241 W. South St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Members Present: Chris Wright; Norman Jung; Erin Seaverson; Derl Oberlin;
Josh Willson; Linda Bennett; Claire Milne

Members Absent:

City Staff: Sharon Ferraro, Historic Preservation Coordinator
Karleen Steppenwolf, Records Coordinator

Call To Order

Ms. Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval Of Absences

Agenda

Additions to the Agenda: IX E. Earth Day 2007

Minutes

There were a few corrections to the May 9, 2006 minutes. The corrections were on page 2, under Action Items and Committee Reports.

Mr. Oberlin, supported by Mr. Wright, moved to approve the May 9, 2006 minutes as amended. With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

Introduction Of Guests

Pam O'Connor – former commissioner
Phill Wilson – citizen
Curt Aardema – citizen
Terry Kuseske – chairman of City Planning
Alex Cybulski – reporter
Barb Miller – City Commissioner, Liaison

Citizen Comments

Curt Aardema inquired on the status of the Bryant Paper Mill property. Ms. Ferraro stated that she has no new information on the project, but will look into it and provide an update on the progress of the demolition.

Terry Kuseske stated he was attending the meeting to understand how the various committees affect each other. Ms. Ferraro will share HPC information with him.

Correspondence

Correspondence included in packets.

Financial Report

City: on track.

O'Connor Fund: the fund received a \$25.00 gift donation. The fund is currently a little over \$100,000.00. The goal is to see the fund at \$300,000.00.

Lost and Found Book Project: WMU purchased some books. There are two overdue accounts that will be sent reminder letters of payment due. There is 5000 copies left of Kalamazoo: Lost and Found.

Action Items

A) Change of rules for advisory commissions: Ms O'Connor had some comments regarding reappointments and liaison responsibilities. Ms. Bennett had some comments regarding absences and stated that the wording in item K was not worded very well. Ms. Ferraro will document the comments and send them to the City Clerk for review.

B) Recommendations to DDRC about the proposed Greenleaf Development at West South and South Rose and the proposed demolition of the Park Building: Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Milne have put together a list of comments to make regarding the demolition. Ms. O'Connor feels that the National Historic District will not go through if the building is lost. Ms. Ferraro will work on a report to include stronger findings of significant to why the building should be saved. Ms. Ferraro will forward her report to the Director of Community Planning and Development, City Planner, DDRC, Planning Commission and the Site Plan Review Committee. Ms. Ferraro and Ms. Milne will work on the document to get it completed by next Tuesday (June 20, 2006). Mr. Wright will attend the next DDRC meeting.

Ms. Milne, supported by Mr. Wright, moved to deny the demolition permit based on the historical significance and that it will jeopardize the National Historic District. With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

C) Iannelli Fountain: Mr. Jung had the latest information regarding the fountain. Mr. Jung read his memo that he wrote to the KCPA. The next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2006.

Ms. O'Connor stated that the Arts Council has some comments regarding the fountain and will go public with them. Ms. O'Connor stated that it sounded favorable. The Arts Council needs to be at the meetings along with additional representation from the historical society. Ms. O'Connor also stated that the fountain needs water in it to protect it from further damage. Ms. Miller, City Commissioner, said she would check on it.

D) Section 106 Reviews: Ms. Ferraro spoke on current activity.

E) Earth Day 2007: Ms. Milne suggested that the HPC should be involved in the Earth Day celebrations that are held at Bronson Park. The Commission requested that Ms. Milne look into it and report back to the HPC.

Committee Reports

Ms. Ferraro is looking into getting a walking tour on the cities web site. The committee discussed the possibility of seasonal or monthly tours. The committee also discussed another publication regarding Kalamazoo's history, such as the ethnic history, stories of things you have never heard of or historical information on the cemeteries, etc.

City Reports

Reports from the coordinator are included in packet.

Ms. Ferraro handed out a document of state tax credits applied for. Ms. Ferraro is hoping that it can be used as a possible multiplier.

Commissioner Comments

The commissioners made corrections/updates to the name and address list of the current members of the HPC board.

Citizen Comments

Ms. O'Connor stated that the MHPN grant funds will come out this fall. The due date is October 1, 2006 and the grant may range from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

Adjournment

Ms. Bennett moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm.

**Mr. Jung, supported by Mr. Oberlin, moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm.
With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Submitted by (Karleen Steppenwolf)

Reviewed by (Sharon Ferraro)

Approved by (Linda Bennett)