

KALAMAZOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Notes

3rd Floor Conference Room – City Hall – 241 West South Street
Tuesday, August 14, 2012 – 7:00 pm

- I. **Call to Order** 7:01pm
- II. **Approval of Absences** - All current commissioners present – one vacancy
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
- IV. **Introduction of Guests:** Pam O'Connor (HPC Alumni), Norman Jung (HPC Alumni), Claudia Holewinski (daughter of commissioner)
- V. **Citizen Comments on NON-agenda items***
 - a. Pam O'Connor – Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) Work Plan Retreat is this coming weekend. They will be discussing public policy – CAP Act – House and Senate bills to improve Federal Historic Preservation Tax credit. The bill increases value of credit from 20% to 30% for projects under \$5M + 2% bonus for sustainable features + increasing ability for non-profits to use the tax credit. Michigan tourist oriented design signage (TODS – part of the Pure Michigan program) to be extended to include historic sites. Contractor does not currently include historic sites – tends to fund and make signs available for commercial uses and promotions.
- VI. **Presentation from CP&D director Jeff Chamberlain (JC)/ City Planner Andrea Augustine (AA)**

JC - HP as public policy + real world issues we face with the city budget. JC explained the dept and how it works, what it covers. CP&D has been asked to do all the assigned work on a smaller budget and is evaluating all the work CP&D does in terms of necessity. Anti-Blight and safety are vital. Is HP required as a public service? Is the HPC required by state law? Could the city spin off the HPC to a new non-profit county-wide organization? JC- The discussion at this meeting is meant to begin the conversation. JC cited the Friends of Recreation and their process of becoming a 501c3 non-profit. This will help with fund raising as a stand-alone body.

AA – HP is an important part of what the city does, providing education and information. Are there benefits to moving the HPC to a county non-profit? Staffing is the largest city issue. City will continue to support HP. CP&D would like to work with a sub-committee

David Brose (DB) – Sharon's role will continue?

AA – She will be spending more time working with building inspectors and Anti-Blight

JC- There are 3 components – staff person, HDC + Historic Districts, and HPC for policy

DB – Is the vision that HPC dissolves and merges into a county wide?

JC – That is one scenario – not necessarily county wide, but outside of the city control

JC – Jeff referred to Andrea's idea – if we could start from scratch what kind of a preservation organization could we envision – a city body or an independent body consulted on preservation issues? How could the city support a transition?

JC - How do we as a city continue to deliver necessary services with a declining revenue stream?

AA - HP is important to the planners and to the city – we want to figure out the best way to move forward.

Katie Jacobs (KJ) – As a city body, the HPC has a more powerful voice – the city is compelled to listen to its own appointed board.

Curt Aardema (CA) – being a city board gives the HPC more weight in their outreach and significance.

JC – not only staffing and money, but also are there opportunities for change and growth in a change – in a new structure that could be more effective.

DB – This is not a role that the city should give up – the support of historic preservation needs to continue

CA – The HPC mission needs to continue its HP role in the city

JC- Pros and cons of spinning off the organization or as a city board – any changes in mission, etc to make the board more effective?

ADD TO AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER – changes, focused non-profit or a city board can we make the board more effective and shift the burden to more people. If we redesigned the commission, what could it become? (done- added to 9/11/12 agenda on 8/20/12)

AA – the city wants to make this a slow and deliberate process for transformation.

DB - as a city appointed commission the HPC has more standing.

VII. Financial Report

a. City (Jacobs/Steppenwolf) **(ITEM A)**

b. O'Connor Fund Report **(ITEM B)**

ADD AGENDA ITEM TO SET UP PLANS FOR THIS YEARS O'CONNOR FUND APPEAL (done- added to 9/11/12 agenda on 8/20/12)

c. Kalamazoo: Lost and Found Report **(ITEM C)**

VIII. Action and Discussion Items

a. Work Plan Reports from Team Leaders

i. Designation (D) – Aardema – Washington Square National Register nomination presentation on July 24th for Washington Square property and business owners. Invitations mailed or sent to all property and business owners. The letter prompted some phone calls to Curt Aardema , but the only attendees were members of the HPC & Edison Development Group committee members. HPC members Chris Wright and Lynn Stevens along with the coordinator met with SARA board members to discuss the North and Douglas buildings – HPC will continue to monitor the situation. Noble Lodge has been razed.

ii. Sustainability (S) – Stevens

Hidden Kalamazoo - subcommittee will start with touring the potential sites.

iii. Preservation Month (PM) – Holewinski

iv. Iannelli Fountain (IF) – Brose

DB – met with Frances about Parks & Rec plan for fundraising and Friends of Rec spin off. Frances provided a model RFP to use in soliciting bids for the fundraising feasibility study. She also provided a breakdown of the costs of fountain restoration. David also spoke with Tom Nehil – outside of the cover the cost of the artistic restoration is about \$150,000. FOTP Committee talked about other fundraising

Sharon and David met with Royce Yeater of the Jeffris Foundation on Friday August 10, 2012 – Sharon is preparing a report.

v. Operations (O) – Wright – no report

vi. Sites – Aardema – no report

IX. Old/New Business

Keep Amy Thomas' idea of meeting at different sites on the agenda (done- added to 9/11/12 agenda on 8/20/12)

X. Approval of Minutes: July 10, 2012 (ITEM D)

Approve as written LS/CA passed unanimously.

XI. Correspondence - none

XII. Coordinators Reports

a. Site Watch & Issues **(ITEM E)**

XIII. Citizen Comments on NON-agenda items*

XIV. Commissioner Comments

Adjourn

9:20 PM