

**KALAMAZOO HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**May 9, 2007  
Third Floor Conference Room  
241 W. South St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007**

Members Present: Chris Wright; Norman Jung; Erin Seaverson;  
Linda Gentry Bennett; Claire Milne

Members Absent: Josh Willson, excused

City Staff: Sharon Ferraro, Historic Preservation Coordinator  
Karleen Steppenwolf, Recording Secretary

City Commission: Barbara Miller

**Call To Order**

Ms. Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

**Approval Of Absences**

**Agenda**

Addition of item IX.F. Taxpayers notice in Kalamazoo Gazette concerning issuance of bonds for work on city hall.

**Mr. Jung, supported by Ms. Seaverson, moved to approve the May 9, 2007 agenda as amended. With a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.**

**Minutes**

Corrections:

There was a minor correction on page 3.

**Mr. Jung, supported by Ms. Milne, moved to approve the April 10, 2007 minutes as amended. With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.**

**Introduction Of Guests**

Pam O'Connor – former commissioner, author of [Kalamazoo: Lost and Found](#)

### Citizen Comments

Ms. O'Connor stated that the Mackinac Island conference was successful. Two hundred people were in attendance. The Director of the DDA of Lansing spoke. Ms. O'Connor had some informational booklets for the board to look at if interested.

### Correspondence

None

### Financial Report

**City:** No comments, on track.

**Mr. Wright, supported by Mr. Jung moved to postpone the election of a Treasurer until the June meeting. With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.**

**O'Connor Fund:** Ms. O'Connor stated that \$125 in gifts was received in the first quarter. One additional gift was received in April for \$50. Ms. O'Connor also stated that the annual appeal should be planned in August.

**Lost and Found Book Project:** Ms. O'Connor stated that Wild Goose Chase has paid. Ms. O'Connor will be organizing a book sale for KHPC in conjunction with the KSOL's downtown homes tour and will donate 20% of the sales proceeds to KSOL.

### Action Items/Discussion Items

- A) Orientation meeting for Historic District property owners will be held June 21 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Bryan Lijewski will be will speak on tax credits available to property owners in historic districts. Ms. Ferraro will write a letter to Brian Conway asking if Bryan Lijewski's travel expenses could be waived. Mr. Wright asked if the meeting could be recorded possibly through Cable Access. Ms. Ferraro will check into it. Ms. Ferraro will be sending a letter out to the new Historic District property owners.
- B) Fountain of the Pioneers: Mr. Jung stated that a draft charette is scheduled for the middle of June and will last for four days. Ms. O'Connor stated that the Architech Gallery has sold presentation drawings of the fountain and wanted to know if the HPC would be interested in having copies made. Ms. O'Connor will look into the cost and availability.
- C) Fountain scrubbing: the event will take place the weekend of May 19 (see memo). Volunteers will need to sign a "hold harmless agreement". Ms. Bennett, Mr. Jung, Mr. Wright and Ms. Ferraro will be in attendance. If it is raining very hard the event will be rescheduled.

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- D) Water Tower: meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 24 at 6:30 pm in the Van Deusen Room, Kalamazoo Public Library. Priscilla McDougall and Brian Conway will be present to speak. Ms. Ferraro encouraged all the commissioners to attend.
- E) Process for proposing new historic districts: (see memo). Ms. O'Connor stated that more than an invitation is needed to study the properties. The process needs to be used as a study tool and be proactive to study property that may need to be studied and protected while study is going on. Two examples would be the 100 block of E. Michigan and the State Theater.
- F) Taxpayer Notice: among other items, the notice stated some work to be done at City Hall. Ms. Ferraro will look into items listed in the Kalamazoo Gazette.

### Committee Reports

None

### City Reports

None.

Ms. Ferraro stated that she will be meeting with an intern and that she has a couple of ideas for projects to work on.

### Commissioner Comments

It was felt that the West Main Hill neighborhood was approved as a Historic District because of the property owners support, the high level of activity by the neighborhood association in the postponement period of 6 weeks and that Jeff Chamberlain and Sharon Ferraro took the time to answer questions that the property owners had.

Mr. Wright stated that no one could see the awards as they were presented at the City Commission Meeting at the awards ceremony. Ms. O'Connor felt the awards process went too fast. Ms. Milne suggested that the presentation needs to be more "high tech" and that maybe the awards ceremony needs to be done separately from the commission meeting.

There was discussion of a possible "Blue Vinyl" fundraiser event scheduled at the library to show the video and use it as a fundraiser.

An application has been received from former Historic Preservation Commissioner Katie Jacobs to fill the vacancy on the board.

**Mr. Jung, supported by Mr. Wright, moved to recommend Katie Jacobs as a prospective board member. With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.**

### Citizen Comments

Ms. O'Connor is wondering if the photos in the City Hall atrium should be removed or redone.

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Adjournment 9:15 pm.

**Mr. Wright, supported by Mr. Jung moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. By voice vote the commission unanimously passed the motion.**

**Submitted by (Karleen Steppenwolf)**

**Reviewed by (Sharon Ferraro)**

**Approved by (Linda Gentry Bennett)**