

KALAMAZOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

CITY HALL - 241 W. South – Third Floor Conference room
(West side – center – top of the west staircase next to the women’s bathroom)
MONDAY, March 13, 2017 – 6:00pm

I. Call to Order – 6:00 pm

SPECIAL MEETING – presentation from Rebekah Kik on Imagine Kalamazoo. Historic District Commissioners Max Tibbitts, John Mitchell and Sally Reynolds were also present.

Short presentation on the planning process. Tonight will get comments from both commissions. There will be downtown meetings in April (11 & 12) that will summarize the data we have collected so far and begin work on the Design Phase.

West Main Hill – discussion of the interface between the city and township on the west edge of West Main Hill. Discussion of a Corridor Improvement Authority – similar to a DDA, can regulate new construction and work and use TIF (Tax Increment Financing) to attract and fund projects. The authority could begin at Douglas and extend to Solon/Howard/ Nichols or further. Also discussed traffic calming measures for Lovell, Monroe and Academy to slow or inhibit cut through traffic.

Stuart – homes need help with painting houses – possible grant or loan fund. Also discussed a rehab fund available to income qualified people in Vine and Stuart. The people in Stuart are interested in branding Stuart as a historic gateway. They want to examine how the thoroughfares of West Kalamazoo and Douglas fit into the historic character, possible traffic calming or (preferably) two way traffic on West Kalamazoo.

Also discussed form based code for commercial and residential infill for both Vine and Stuart – how can form based code become a tool for preserving neighborhoods, both designated historic and non-historic.

II. Approval of Absences: Lynn Stevens (CA/CW - approved)

III. Approval of Agenda: (DBr/CW – approved without changes)

IV. Introduction of Guests: Pam O’Connor, Regina Gorham, Beth Timmerman, Josh Koenig

V. Citizen Comments on NON-agenda items* & Correspondence: Pam O’Connor commented on the impending property exchanges and sales between Kalamazoo County, WMU, DTI, Kalamazoo Community Foundation and Plazacorp that would end with the historic Kalamazoo County Courthouse transferred to ownership by Plazacorp investors. According to an article in the Sunday, March 15, Kalamazoo Gazette, the Kalamazoo County Administrator believes the courthouse is not historic. Ms. O’Connor proposes a letter from the HPC to the County administrator and commissioners to let them know that the courthouse is part of the Bronson Park National Register Historic District. She has drafted a letter and shared copies with the commission. The commission supports the idea but would like to revise the letter a little Curt Aardema offered to help. **Motion by David Brose, seconded by Chris Wright to send a letter to the county about the courthouse. With a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. O’Connor also reported that the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference is in November in Chicago and will send all the commissioners information to consider.

VI. Financial Report - REPORT AT MEETING - no update at the meeting.

- a. REVENUE October (\$0) YTD (\$11,301.49)
- b. EXPENDITURES November (\$1893.40) YTD (\$11,013.22)
- c. BALANCE REMAINING (\$4198.51)
- d. RESERVE FUND (\$30,337.32)

VII. Action and Discussion Items

- a. Work Plan Reports from Team Leaders Note any changes to the workplan
 - i. Sustainability (SU) – Stevens (Hidden Kalamazoo Tour) **(ITEM A)**
 1. Ms. Ferraro reported that all the proposed sites have been confirmed

- ii. Preservation Month (PM)
 - 1. Approve the site for the awards ceremony on May 24 **(ITEM B)**
 - I. **CA/CW Approve renting the barn at Riverview Launch for the Preservation Awards on Wednesday May 24. With a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**
 - 2. Report on nominations (received March 6) **(ITEM C)**
 - I. **DBr/DK – Approve all four projects nominated for Preservation Awards. With a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. (432 Woodward, GTW Depot, KPL Local History Room website, 1301 Portage)**
- iii. Bronson Park 21st Century (BP21)
 - 1. Fundraising
 - I. Pam O’Connor reports that the fundraising is \$200,000 shy of the halfway point, with about \$500,000 in grant applications or proposals pending. One of the commissioners asked if the Bronson Park 21st Century Project is eligible as an aspirational project under the pre Foundation for Excellence giving. The churches around the park are very supportive of the master plan. The Bronson Park 21st Century fundraising has a Facebook page. The first issue of the fundraising newsletter going to donors and potential donors and supporters went out yesterday.
 - 2. Planning
 - 3. Education – Brose
 - I. The videography project to produce 5 – two minute videos – is progressing. Some of the tribal council are willing to speak – not all are willing to be photographed. The project needs to wrap up by May 31st to meet the requirements of the grantor, the Michigan Humanities Council. A question was raised. Currently the HPC is in charge of the NextExit History sites. Who will be charged with monitoring, and updating in the future?
- iv. Operations (O) – Wright
- v. Sites (SI) – Aardema
- vi. Designation (D) – Aardema

VIII. Old/New Business

- a. Approve reimbursing Chris Wright for purchase of pizza for the Workplan retreat. **(ITEM D) CA/DK – approve reimbursement of \$65.72. With a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Evaluate status of budget. Consider a budget adjustment to add back the \$8000
 - i. **CA/DBe Move to amend the 2017 HPC Budget to add \$8000 into the budget from the reserve fund. With a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**
- c. Make a \$6000 gift to the O’Connor Fund for Historic Preservation at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. (Postponed from January 10, 2017 HPC meeting)
 - i. **CA/CW Move to amend the 2017 HPC Budget to include an additional \$6000 into the budget from the reserve fund. With a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**
 - ii. **CA/CW Move to donate \$6000 to the O’Connor Fund for Historic Preservation at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. With a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**
 - iii. Ms. O’Connor requests notice when the check from the Historic Preservation Commission account is sent to the O’Connor Fund.

IX. Approval of meeting notes and minutes:

- a. February 14, 2017 **(ITEM E) CA/DK – meeting notes were approved as presented. With a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

X. Coordinators Report on non-agenda items

- a. Coordinators monthly report **(ITEM F)**

XI. Citizen Comments on NON-agenda items*

XII. Commissioner Comments

Adjourn 9:14 PM