

KALAMAZOO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

CITY HALL - 241 W. South – 3rd floor conference room

WEDESDAY, October 25, 2017 – 6:30pm

SPECIAL MEETING – Meeting notes

- I. **Approval of Absences:** Beth Timmerman
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved
- III. **Introduction of Guests:** Pam O'Connor, Chris Wright, Jack Urban, Zach Lassiter, Malachi Barrett, Larry Plamondon, Andy Argo, Steve VandenBusche (7genAE)
- IV. **Citizen Comments on NON-agenda items*& Correspondence:**
- ~~V. **Financial Report (20 min)**~~
- VI. **Action and Discussion Items**
 - 1) Fountain of the Pioneers
 - a) Summary History of the fountain repair efforts and planning
 - I. Repairs in 1990 and 2002
 - II. Review of 2005-7 Issues Resolution Committee
 - a. Sharon presented a history of the fountain and the issues involved. From about 2000 to the present.
 - b. David Brose presented the background of the Public Education Committee.
 - c. Gun Lake Band- “Facilitate community wide healing”
 - III. “Equally compelling” reservation boundary marker project chosen – marking the nine square miles of the original reservation.
 - a. Sue Robinson – were any of current city commission on the commission back in 2005 – Anderson, Cooney and Hopewell. Master Plan expanded to include the entire park began in fall 2015 and completed in 2016. \$2.8M needed for master plan. How much goes for the fountain, the Public Education project and the endowment.
 - b. **Comments** – Norman Jung – original committee was very diverse including many people from all parts of the county.
 - IV. Josh Koenig asked for thoughts from the commissioners
 - a. **Brose** – happy to see the change from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day – push people to reassess the way history is told.
 - b. Larry Plamondon – two structures being discussed – the fountain and the statue. We see the “statue” differently and feel the statue could be removed without damaging the fountain.
 - c. **Gorham** – Iannelli’s stated intent was to harmonize the fountain style with the civic square and to represent our history.
 - d. **Koenig** – removing the sculpture could silence history instead of correcting the story.
 - e. **Kohrman** – always room for discussion and education with the sculpture in place
 - f. **Koenig** - Monuments tell us more about the time when they were built than about what they represent.
 - g. **Gorham** – KVM has the “Hateful Things” exhibit. Dr. Pilgrim’s original intent was to collect and destroy the pieces. But he decided to use the items to educate. It was difficult to do the research on these topics. These were not her people but she feels she understands. The Dardens, from Mississippi have collected these things in the same way. Keeping things that hurt remind us of why it hurts.
 - h. **Brose** - The fountain is upsetting, but the history is very upsetting.
 - i. Steve Vanden Bussche showed the model of the marker
 - j. **Robinson** – panel in Bronson Park look different from the corner markers, that panel will interpret the fountain and not be the same as the corner markers. Also concerned that the Indian Mound is not marked in the master plan. Pam says that objective in the plan is to interpret the mound and preserve it.
 - V. Next steps – **Brose** – the HPC should educate and advise the city commission, include the chronology and advise. What info would CMO and commission like based on commissioner

comments and concerns? Urban – summary piece with links for additional information. Koenig - establish a working document in Dropbox. Josh will set up Dropbox Sharon will check deadline for city commission packet. Tentative deadline of November 9. Comment from citizen Zach Lassiter about Open Meetings Act. Commission decided to prepare notes for November 21 HPC meeting and create a statement for the city commission at the meeting.

VII. Old/New Business

- a. Assembling mailing for O'Connor Fund (concurrently with discussion) Postpone to after any citizen comments.
 - i. Norman Jung on slave artifacts
 - ii. Steve Vanden Bussche – (Not company comment) seems to be a disconnect between the markers and the master plan Where is the balance between the revised next generation of the history of the Pottawatomie and restoring a work of art that is telling another incorrect story. Needs balance between what was done and what we are doing now (Personal opinion.)
 - iii. Larry Plamondon – member of Ottawa band north of the Pottawatomie. Gun Lake Band does not represent all the Indians of southwest Michigan. What will the text of the interpretive panels be and will the information solve the education. Forced removal of the Ottawa and Pottawatomie and white supremacy represented. Proper place for the sculpture is in a museum or an educational site. Obvious people are trying very hard to accommodate many views.
 - iv. Zach Lassiter – I believe in preserving history, the collections the commissioners spoke of today were all held in museums where you choose to view the objects. The current political climate, the fountain will be removed sometime in the middle of the night.
 - v. Andy Argo – we are looking at the fountain as a historic artifact. Other objects celebrating white supremacy have been removed. (did not take complete notes. Favors removing the fountain sculpture.)
 - vi. Pam O'Connor – two figures in the sculpture. First view goes to the Native American – he is firmly set in place and clear of vision. Iannelli was presenting a Native American presence that was not going to go away.
 - vii. Jack Urban – he was on the Public Art Commission when the Master Plan was formulated. Controversy in public art is a good thing. Keeping the sculpture in the park allows interpretation by everyone who visits the park. If we impose a new meaning on the art in our own time, we are doing a disservice. Individual interpretations by diverse people, multiple interpretations by diverse people. Keeping the statue in the park, is where it does the most good for the most people.
 - viii. Chris Wright – was chair of HPC and involved for 17 years. Traveled to Europe in September, in Munich. Planned to go to Dachau in the morning then on to Oktoberfest in the afternoon and evening. Met at 12:30 to review plans, stayed until 5pm until the camp closed because there was so much to process and to experience. Cannot imagine being denied that experience because the camp was gone. A plaque can be updated, ones a structure is gone, it can't be replaced.

VIII. Citizen Comments on NON-agenda items*

- IX. Commissioner Comments Brose** – thank you for calling this meeting for discussion.

Adjourn 9:00 PM