

**Washtenaw County Historic District Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Thursday, March 4, 2021</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	5:30 pm-7:00 p.m.
<b>PLACE:</b>	Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Call to Order**

Chair Ralph called the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

**Roll Call**

- **Commissioners present:** Alec Jerome from Scio Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan; Aprille McKay from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan; Alice Ralph from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan; Katie Remensnyder from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan; Blake Swihart from Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan; Patti Smith from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan; James Mann from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan; and Oliva Davidson from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- **Commissioners absent:** Peter Kelley
- **Staff:** Melinda Schmidt, Chris Yelonek, and Nathan Voght

**Approval of the Agenda of the Current Meeting:**

Chair Ralph motioned to approve the agenda of March 4, 2021 Historic District Commission meeting. Commissioner Jerome seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting: January 7, 2021:**

Chair Ralph motioned to approve the January 7, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Swihart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Business and Reports: Staff Report**

Staff updated the Commission on the following items:

**Programming and Promotional Materials**

The Storymap companion for the A.P. Marshall Online Oral History Archive is live. It is part of a Ypsilanti District Library Civil Rights virtual exhibit and can be accessed on the library website.

Histweb Update: Staff Yelonek is working on a new project to update HistWeb, the County's GIS-based repository for historic survey data. Staff is working to update HistWeb with the most up to date local historic district, National Register, and historic marker information. Staff will update the non-extant status of demolished buildings, and create a better user interface for the database.

**Certified Local Government Program**

Northfield Township Survey Update: Staff and preservation specialist Cheri Szcodronski have adjusted the Northfield Township reconnaissance survey schedule. The survey continued in November and December and will resume mid-March. Staff received a draft of the report in early March. Commissioners requested to see the report. Staff will send the draft report to the HDC.

Yearly Report: Staff submitted the required yearly Certified Local Government report for 2020 to SHPO.

**Local Historic District Update**

Staff updated the commission on the vacant lot in the Thornoaks Neighborhood. Staff has been in contact with the property owner and the builder who will construct the new house in the Thornoaks Neighborhood. Staff provided

background information on the application process and has discussed appropriate design principles with the property owner and the builder. Staff will continue to talk with the builder and reach out to the architect soon.

**Current Legislation**

In late December, Senate Bill 54 (a bill to reinstate the Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credit) was signed into law. Next steps include creating process and procedure. Staff included a fact sheet included in the packet.

**Adjournment:** Chair Ralph motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 pm. Vice-chair Jerome seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next HDC meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Virtual Zoom Meeting