

Washtenaw County Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes

DATE:	Thursday, May 6, 2021
TIME:	5:30 pm-7:00 p.m.
PLACE:	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:** Katie Remensnyder attending from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI; Alice Ralph attending from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI; James Mann attending from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI; Aprille McKay attending from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI; Peter Kelley attending from Northfield Township, Washtenaw County, MI; Alec Jerome attending from Scio Township, Washtenaw County, MI; Olivia Davidson attending from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI
- **Commissioners absent:** Blake Swihart, excused; Patti Smith
- **Staff:** Melinda Schmidt, Chris Yelonek

Approval of the Agenda of the Current Meeting:

Commissioner Mann motioned to approve the agenda of May 6, 2021 Historic District Commission meeting. Vice Chair Jerome seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting: March 4, 2021:

Chair Ralph motioned to approve the March 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kelley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Business and Reports: Staff Report

Staff updated the Commission on the following items:

Programming and Promotional Materials

Histweb Update: Chris Yelonek updated the commission on the Histweb Update project. HistWeb is the County's GIS-based repository for historic survey data. He finished Phase I, which included updating Local Historic Districts, Historic Markers, and National Register sites on the platform. He is working on Phase II. During Phase II, staff will review rural property surveys to update the non-extant status of demolished buildings and make sure markers are in the correct place.

Washtenaw County Historical Consortium: Staff reported the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium members are seeking to partner with other members to coordinate bicentennial celebrations. Many of the cities, villages, townships, and county bicentennial celebrations will take place from 2022-26. Commissioner McKay stated she will talk with the Bentley Historical Library about possible events.

Staff reminded the HDC about the CAMP workshop on Saturday, May 15, 2021.

Certified Local Government Program

Northfield Township Survey: Staff updated the HDC on receiving a draft of the Northfield Township reconnaissance survey. Commissioner Kelley stated a local historian on Whitmore Lake can give a tour for anyone interested. Staff reported that Whitmore Lake is not part of the reconnaissance survey, due to loss of architectural integrity for many of the historic properties. Commissioner Kelley stated it is urgent to educate property buyers who are not aware of the

historic value of many properties. Many of the buyers are corporations who are interested in demolishing and remodeling historic properties. Chair Ralph asked if the HDC can send buyers materials to inform them of the historic value of many of the properties. Commissioner Kelley stated Whitmore Lake is an ideal location for redevelopment due to the main roadway and low property values. Staff encouraged the HDC to reach out to the Northfield Township Historical Society to discuss interest in possible preservation strategies. The Commission discussed various strategies, such as educational materials and designation. Commissioner Remensnyder reminded the commission that for a cultural landscape to be historic, the landscape must retain integrity.

Local Historic District Update

Staff reported they are regularly in touch with the builder for the new build in the Thornoaks Neighborhood.

Adjournment: Chair Ralph motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 pm. Vice-chair Jerome seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next HDC meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Virtual Zoom Meeting
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