



HIGHLAND PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Robert B. Blackwell Municipal Building
12050 Woodward Avenue
Highland Park, Michigan 48203
313-252-0050 x257 Chairman F.Ross

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (HDC) MEETING Highland Park Fire Station, 25 Gerald Monday, 28th February 2022 OFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER - 6:03PM

The meeting was hosted by Chair Zobel in the Highland Park Fire Station and also called to order by Chair Zobel, roll call was performed by Secretary Harris

Commissioners Present: Anne Zobel - Chair, Malika Pryor - Vice Chair, Jeffrey Harris-Secretary, Commissioner Arthur Williams

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Debbie Morrison [unexcused]

Other: Nathan Harvey - Prospective Commissioner

Because the November 2021 meeting did not have a quorum, no official business was discussed and no minutes were taken.

Chair Zobel introduced Nathan Harvey to the commission. Nathan is a Highland Park based architect whom Anne has asked to be commissioner of the HDC. Per Allen at the MI SHPO office, Historic District Commissions are supposed to have an architect represented. Chair Zobel remembered Nathan worked as an architect and asked if he would join. All of the commissioners present at the meeting then introduced themselves to Nathan. Chair Zobel will set up a meeting between her, the mayor, and Nathan quickly. She has already had a meeting between the mayor and Donya to have Donya officially nominated to the Highland Park HDC commission.

The October 2021 Minutes were brought up at this time and Vice Chair Pryor motioned to approve these minutes, seconded by Secretary Harris, motioned passed at 6:07PM.

REPORT FROM COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CED) DIRECTOR – 6:08PM

CED Director Hinton was unable to attend this meeting due to a special Planning Committee meeting taking place at the same time. Instead, Chair Zobel updated the commission on topics to which she was privy.

HIGHLAND PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Chair: Commissioner Anne Zobel
Vice Chair: Commissioner Malika Pryor
Secretary: Commissioner Jeffrey Harris

Commissioner Arthur Williams
Commissioner Debbie Morrison

Chair Zobel has been in touch with Jim Breughman (chair of WA3) regarding the purchaser of the Ford Administration Building. Initially, Jim was unwilling to divulge who the purchaser was, but he decided recently to let Chair Zobel know that the property was being purchased by a significant Detroit based property developer. The son, and presumably primary contact of this developer is Carlo Liburdi. The company owns many older properties in Detroit, and they are aware that the Ford Administration Building is in a Historic District. They are also aware of the benefits of and how to use the historic preservation tax credit.

Chair Zobel noted that she has joined the Joe Louis Greenway discussions. The folks heading this discussion mentioned that the Ford Administration Building is next to the Greenway and they are looking forward to that building being fixed up. They also mentioned that there are additional properties in the Ford Campus that could be fixed up as well, although no addresses were given. There is also no new information about the concrete crushing company behind the Ford Administration Building, which would likely be one of the sites next to the Greenway as well.

The MacGregor Library Committee has applied for a Kresge “KIP-D” grant (these are typically between \$10,000-15,000). The focus of this grant, both from the perspective of the Committee and the Kresge program, is to assist with public engagement and community efforts. If the committee receives the grant, this will be the first time Highland Park has ever received this particular type of grant. The committee’s work here will be the 3rd time there has been a major push to save the MacGregor Library. One of the primary initial issues with saving the MacGregor Library is there is a clause in the deed that requires the property to remain a library, there is other verbiage within the deed which spell out additional requirements of the property. In the most recent previous attempt to save the Library, Anne mentioned that a legal scholar read the entire deed and he stated that he did not believe the verbiage in the deed is as restrictive as previous committees have believed. Either way, the family of the original MacGregor will need to buy into whatever plans the city has for the MacGregor Library.

MICHIGAN STATE PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO) - CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM (CLG) – 6:41PM

Chair Zobel began by providing some history for Nathan on the topic of the MI SHPO Office and their Certified Local Government Program. The HP HDC applied to be part of the CLG Program in the middle of last year (2021). During the paperwork and due diligence required to apply and be accepted into the CLG Program, Allen with MI SHPO and Chair Zobel realized that the City Council of Highland Park had not completed the final step of legitimizing the Historic District. Since this realization, Chair Zobel has presented what the HDC is and what the HDC is doing to the City Council (January 2022). Two readings of the ordinance for the Highland Park Historic District Commission were read aloud and the ordinance was approved. The HDC is not just waiting for the approved ordinance to be recorded.

She also explained that while Allen said that the HDC should have at least two commissioners involved in historic preservation - the commission should be fine with Vice Chair Pryor alone. Malika is part of the Detroit Historical Society.

Chair Zobel then asks the commission to review the “Goals Sheet” the commission created at the behest of MI SHPO. Commissioner Williams believes that the third goal of the commission for 2022 could be started early and easily. This goal involves the documentation of Living History events from 1950 to present as told by Highland Parkers. Vice Chair Pryor should be able to provide people and resources to facilitate oral history training, and the recording of the

oral history itself. All commissioners will be invited to an oral history training tentatively scheduled for April.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND UPDATES / PUBLIC COMMENTS – 7:01PM

Chair Zobel had no additional comments or updates. Commissioner Williams mentioned that the late Chair Frank Ross' wife was doing well and was in good spirits since the passing of her husband. Chair Zobel also remembered that there was a document from 1986 published by the Highland Park School Board that contained a lot of interesting facts related to Highland Park; she will search for this document.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:13PM

Secretary Harris motioned to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chair Pryor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:13PM

- The next Historic District Commission will be held on November 22nd, 2021.