



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 (ZOOM) Monday, 25 January 2021 OFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER - 5:55PM

The meeting was hosted by Tiffany Tiley via Zoom and called to order by Chair Zobel, roll call was performed by Secretary Harris

Commissioners Present: Anne Zobel - Chair, Jeffrey Harris-Secretary, Commissioner Arthur Williams, Commissioner Art Rizzo, Commissioner Debbie Morrison

Commissioners Absent: none

Other: CED Director Tiffany Tiley

A motion to approve the November, 2020 HDC Meeting Minutes was moved by Commissioner Morrison and seconded by Secretary Harris. The motion passed unanimously at 5:56PM.

Chair Zobel opened this meeting by sharing that commissioners whose terms had expired will be reviewed and approved or rejected at the following city council meeting. Note: as of 02/16/2021, Anne Zobel, Jeffrey Harris and Malika Pryor have all had their commission terms approved by city council.

There were some technical difficulties during this meeting which caused some time to be lost; those difficulties are not recorded here as they are impertinent. To conserve space, any agenda items with no updates during this meeting have been omitted from the minutes.

REPORT FROM COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CED) DIRECTOR – 5:58PM

Chair Zobel opened up this portion of the meeting by informing the commission that she had reached out to Mark Hackshaw - who is the Highland Park community representative of the Ford Administration building. Chair Zobel sought some explanation of who owns this property and

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Chair: Commissioner Anne Zobel

Secretary: Commissioner Jeffrey Harris
Commissioner Arthur Williams

Commissioner Arthur Rizzo
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who is making decisions about it. Mark explained to Chair Zobel that the property is owned by an LLC which has four members. Mark is one of those members. The other three members of the LLC are part of "WA3" or Woodward Avenue Action Association.

Chair Zobel reached out to one of these WA3 members, Jim Brochman. He informed the Chair there is a buyer interested in the property, and despite his inability to share who that buyer is, he was confident that the potential buyer would have sufficient finances to secure, restore and develop the property. The buyer is also aware of the window casements which are beginning to fall off the building. The chair has asked Jim to keep her updated on any significant developments on this property so that the commission can act quickly if and when ownership transfer takes place.

UPDATE ON COMMISSION SEATS – 6:07PM

The resolution to confirm two commissioners with expired terms and the addition of a new commissioner has been created and sent to the Clerk to be addressed at the next City Council meeting.

The commission had also discussed the addition of Mr. Johnson, who documented architecture within Highland Park on Facebook (on a page called Highland Parkitecture), to the commission. Sadly, Mr. Johnson passed away of COVID19.

MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT RE-STATEMENT – 6:12PM

Chair Zobel explained that this tax credit has been reinstated and what it means for owners of historic properties. The state tax credit can be used by property-owners to receive a state income tax credit when making major updates to homes that are approved by MSHDA. The next step, ideally, is for MSHDA to come up with "How-To" literature to distribute to owners of historic properties. The chair also mentioned that this tax is likely not retroactive.

MAY 2021 COMMUNITY EDUCATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT - MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK – 6:18PM

Chair Zobel has a commitment from Michigan Preservation Network and Jim Turner to host a window restoration workshop this year. The date of this workshop will be set before Memorial Day, which is May 22nd, 2021.

Secretary Harris made a point of ensuring that the commission has sufficient outreach. In response, CED Director Tilley explained that Rodney Loggins, the city's new Public Relations officer, will be able to put this in the city's newsletter and go on air with it (on RJ Watkin's show).

To help coordinate the location logistics of this workshop, CED Director Tilley will be connecting Chair Zobel with Sue, the director of the Highland Park Recreation Center.

OTHER – 6:27PM

Art Williams wanted to know if Highland Park is offering vaccines to people at present. CED Director Tilley explained that right now the city is focusing on elder centers within the city, and further updates will be given

ADJOURNMENT – 6:29PM

- Adjournment motioned by Secretary Harris and seconded by Commissioner Art Williams. Meeting adjourned at 6:29PM. The next HDC meeting will occur on Zoom (app) at 5:30PM on Monday, February 22nd.