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TO: Suzanne Shaw, Chair
Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Mark J. McFadden, Director
Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission

DATE: March 6, 2002

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Historic District
Study Committee to evaluate the Old Zion Parsonage for Historic
District status

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners appoint individuals recommended by the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission to a Study Committee to evaluate the Old Zion Parsonage for the purpose of nominating the property for Historic District status.

BACKGROUND

The Old Zion Parsonage is located at 2905 Fletcher Road in Freedom Township. It consists of a vernacular Gothic Revival house, a gable-roofed barn, the foundation for the German School and significant landscape features. From 1889-1955 the house served as Zion Lutheran Church's parsonage and was home to three pastors: Heinrich Lemster, Ernst Thieme and Moritz Brueckner. The study committee has access to Zion Lutheran Church's Minutes Book as well as oral histories and archival photos from members of the congregation. The current owners, Jack and Angelica Lewis, wish to have the property designated both to qualify for tax credits under PA 535 of 1998, and to protect their resource for future generations. If approved, the Old Zion Parsonage will be the first historic district in Freedom Township.

DISCUSSION

The current owners of the property approached Freedom Township to have the property listed as a historic district. Freedom Township has asked the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, through the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, to conduct this work on their behalf.

Under the Michigan Historic Districts Act (P.A. 169 of 1970, as amended in 1992), a historic district study committee must be established to evaluate the property and determine if it meets criteria to be included in a historic district. Also under P.A. 169, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to establish such a committee.

The Washtenaw County Historic District Commission recommends that the following individuals be appointed to Old Zion Parsonage Historic District Study Committee: Grace Shackman (Chair), Susan Wiley and Norman Wenk as voting members. Jack and Angelica Lewis and Jasper Pennington will serve as advisors. Marnie Paulus is staff to the WCHDC

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES

None

IMPACT ON THE BUDGET

None

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS

None

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES

None

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES

This request conforms with County Policy

ATTACHMENTS

None

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING THE OLD ZION PARSONAGE FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT STATUS.

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 6, 2002

WHEREAS, the property located at 2905 Fletcher Road (the Old Zion Parsonage) in Freedom Township has potential to be nominated as a historic district; and

WHEREAS, Freedom Township has asked the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners via the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission to have the property listed as a historic district; and

WHEREAS, should it be approved, the Old Zion Parsonage would be the first historic district named in Freedom township; and

WHEREAS, under Michigan's Historic Districts Act (P.A. 169 of 1970, as amended in 1992), a historic district study committee must be established to evaluate the property and determine if it meets criteria to be included in a historic district; and

WHEREAS, under P.A. 169, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to establish such a historic district committee; and

WHEREAS, as dictated by law, the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission is presenting a list of nominees to serve on this historic district committee; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission recommends that the following individuals be appointed: Grace Shackman (Chair), Susan Wiley and Norman Wenk as voting members; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission recommends that Jack and Angelica Lewis and Jasper Pennington serve as advisors and Marnie Paulus will serve as staff

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints the following individuals to the Old Zion Parsonage Historic District Study Committee:

Grace Shackman (Chair)
Susan Wiley
Norman Wenk

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby acknowledges that Jack and Angelica Lewis and Jasper Pennington will serve as advisors and Marnie Paulus will serve as staff to the Old Zion Parsonage Historic District Study Committee