

Washtenaw County Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

DATE:	Thursday, 6 May 2010
TIME:	5:30 p.m.
PLACE	Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center (LRC) 4135 Washtenaw; Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Call to Order

- Meeting began at 5:35 pm with Martha Churchill calling the meeting to order in the absence of Nancy Snyder.

Roll Call

- **Present:** Martha Churchill, Charles Gray, Peter Kelley, Jean King, Alice Ralph and Elmer White, Paul Darling and Jasper Pennington.
- **Absent:** Nancy Snyder
- **Staff:** Melissa Milton-Pung and Cynthia B. Christensen

Public Comment:

None. No one from the public at the meeting.

Business:

Minutes: Paul Darling moved to approve the February minutes and was seconded by Jasper Pennington. Motion carried.

Officer Election:

Tabled

Commissioner Reappointments:

Tabled

USS Washtenaw County Exhibition Repair Update:

Elmer White reported recent fund raising was very successful. New ideas have been presented to display the history by using story boards. MMP requested update in writing and EW agreed to send it. Discussion followed with suggestions to put history in the Bentley Library, put information on the Website and add blogs for input from interested people.

Annual Report to Navy

Staff intends to submit a required annual report to the US Department of the Navy, regarding the current conditions of the USS Washtenaw County artifacts.

2010 CLG Grant Application Update

MMP gave background information on Gordon Hall and recognized the research Alice Ralph contributed to the Grant application. The distribution of funds is a 60/40 match. Dexter Historical Society is funding the money for

the match. This time staff time must be funded not in-kind service. The Rehabilitation plan is the same as Chelsea's Center for the Arts except there will not be a National Register Nomination. The State Historic Preservation Office hasn't revealed who the grant recipients are as of yet but said we should "feel very good" about our application. Discussion followed about the current state of Gordon Hall.

MMP: We should know further details about the grant within a month or so.

MMP: Comments on the Chelsea National Register Nomination were received from the SHPO and should go before the SHPO Board in September. The Chelsea Rehab plan is 95% complete. The architect is making a few changes. This grant has had a great impact on the Chelsea Community. It has helped to change attitudes about Historic Preservation and how to care for and make good choices about property.

Peter Kelley supported MMP in her actions.

Section 106 Reviews of Federal Stimulus-Funded Projects in Washtenaw County

MMP explained the process of federally funded dollars in the Section 106 review process and the changes taking place between the SHPO/National Counsel of Historic Preservation and the County to help simplify the process. MMP is qualified to conduct the necessary reviews and the money earned will help to fund her position with the EDE at Washtenaw County.

Discussion followed about details of the process. The only action required by the HDC is to agree to this proposal with a signature by the HDC Chairperson.

Peter Kelley moved to support this resolution. Alice Ralph seconded. Motion carried.

Goals for 2010: Chuck Gray proposed the formation of a standing committee to study historic districts. Peter would like to get more historic districts in WC.

Suggestions:

1. an inventory of the existing HD's be made to see if there is a good representation throughout the county
2. Identify sources
3. Contact Township and Historical Societies
4. Identify ethnic groups like German Park
5. Involve County commissioners
6. Create methodology to identify and assess criteria to overcome impediments
7. Proactive approach by enlisting aid of HP students, interns and learning institutions in addition to EMU
8. Proactive approach to Heritage tourism/partnerships
9. Update Surveys- add "Michigan Modern"
10. Update Hist-Web
11. HDC to identify potential HD's instead of waiting for public

Martha Churchill proposed that a committee of 2-3 commissioners report back at the next meeting. Jasper, Peter and Elmer volunteered with Martha as a possible 4th.

Jean Snyder suggested as a goal for the commission to designate the Nanry House as a historic district. (A report compiled by Mary Culver on the Nanry House was given to all commissioners.) Discussion followed.

Jasper Pennington moved to make Nanry House a priority. Elmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Jasper Pennington moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:58pm through general agreement. The next HDC meeting is scheduled for Thursday 2 Sept 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center (LRC), 4135 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI.

