Washtenaw County Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, December 10, 2009

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center (LRC)

4135 Washtenaw; Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Call to Order:

• Nancy Snyder called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

Roll Call:

• Present: Martha Churchill, Paul Darling, Charles Gray, Peter Kelley, Jean King, Nancy Snyder,

Alice Ralph, Elmer White

• Absent: Jasper Pennington (excused)

• **Staff:** Melissa Milton-Pung

Charles Gray moved for approval of Consent Agenda as amended, with support from Peter Kelley. Alice Ralph proposed a friendly amendment to remove the HDC Brochure from the agenda, as there was nothing new to report on the topic. The friendly amendment was accepted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

None.

Business:

Role of Historic Preservation in Washtenaw County

Melissa Milton-Pung continued the budget discussion with the HDC, which examined similar issues as all meetings since August, including the current financial state of the County, potential budget cuts, the pending elimination of the Office of Strategic Planning and the planned creation of the Office of Economic Development and Energy. Commissioners reaffirmed their support of VanDerworp's letter provided at the November meeting, which included a proposal for the continuance of the Historic District Commission. Milton-Pung pointed out that 12 local historic districts and a 25-year-long history of Certified Local Government Designation (and access to federal grants) will be able to continue, and expressed gratitude for HDC Commissioners' willingness to work with reduced staff and resources. Milton-Pung outlined the job posting and interview process for the new office of Economic Development & Energy, and indicated that she would be interviewing for a position in that new office in order to continue her service at the County.

Bylaws, Ordinance, and Standing Rules

Milton-Pung provided current copies of the Bylaws, Ordinance, and Standing Rules. The Commissioners reviewed the minor changes that would be necessary to make the documents in alignment with the structural shifts to take place at the County. Language regarding meeting dates will be revised to reflect a four-times-yearly schedule, as opposed to a monthly schedule. Additionally, all language referring to the Planning Advisory Board will be removed, as this body was slated for elimination effective December 31, 2009. The HDC will review the proposed changes and vote upon them at their first meeting in 2010.

Motion by Elmer White, supported by Charles Gray, that the first HDC meeting of the year shall take place on February 11, 2010, at 5:30pm, and that the remaining three meetings of the year shall be scheduled at the first meeting (February 11). The motion carried unanimously.

USS Washtenaw County Artifacts

Elmer White reported on committee efforts to return the USS Washtenaw County Artifacts to public display. The committee has made considerable progress in their efforts to raise a goal amount of \$7500, to fund the new exhibition case. Part of the funds are being raised by selling USS Washtenaw County commemorative caps and by mounting a challenge grant opportunity with a local donor. The committee is now setting its sights on obtaining electrical service to the exhibition case, to support a multi-media component.

Adjournment

Motion by Charles Gray to adjourn the meeting, supported by Peter Kelley. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

The next HDC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 5:30 p.m. at the Learning Resource Center (LRC), 4135 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor.

