

Washtenaw County Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

DATE:	Thursday, 11 February 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 5:31 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 present; with Nancy Snyder, Paul Darling and Jasper Pennington arriving shortly thereafter.
- **Absent:** None
- **Staff:** Melissa Milton-Pung and Cynthia B. Christensen

Cynthia B. Christensen was introduced to the commission as the new volunteer Washtenaw County intern. Recognition of others present at the meeting included three students from Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation program, Sally Clark from York Township and Janice Harwood from Pittsfield township. The students were observing the meeting for an HP graduate class. Both Sally Clark and Janice Harwood were there to inquire about nominating their homes for Historic District status.

A motion by Alice Ralph to rearrange the agenda was seconded by Paul Darling. Discussion followed.

Nancy Snyder proposed to let local property owner Sally Clark speak first. MMP clarified the purpose of having the elections at the first meeting. Charles Gray was opposed to holding election of officers but was in favor of postponing the elections so the new and reappointed commissioners would be able to help in choosing the new leadership. Alice added that the bylaws allow for change.

A motion by Alice Ralph to postpone elections was seconded by Martha Churchill. Vote unanimous to change agenda. Janice Harwood arrived and was added to the Public Comment.

Public Comment:

- Janice Harwood of 6356 E. Michigan Ave in Pittsfield Twp reported that her application for her home to be added as a historic district was submitted last summer. She then gave a short history of her home and property. She has completed restoration of the house. The house was in very poor condition before restoration. She used old pictures to determine the original façade. She found original balusters to use in the reconstruction. There was a "Harwood Stop" for the Interurban rail line "Old Maude". The barns burned in 1916 - has pictures. The House and 10 acres are proposed for the LHD.
MMP toured the site in 2004. Study committee needs to be appointed. (HDC recommends the committee members.) Ms. Harwood is concerned with the Pittsfield Twp. development of a new Master Plan and wants protection.

Alice Ralph moved to recommend a study committee for the Harwood Farmstead and Jasper Pennington seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Peter Kelley opened discussion about appointing a standing Study Committee. Alice Ralph and Nancy Snyder agreed to the difficulty of having a standing Study Committee. MMP clarified the purpose of a study committee is to study one particular property. Because of the amount of work involved, different people usually serve on different study committees. It would require too much to ask one group of people to research every new historic district.

Peter Kelley volunteered to be on a standing Study Committee. Charles Gray expressed confusion about the purposes/differences of a Standing and a Study committees.

- Sally Clark of 620 Mooreville Road in York Twp, outside the city of Milan, purchased three acres and her home four years ago. Twenty years ago, the house was moved back from the road and rehabilitated by the owners. The subsequent owners did not take good care of the house. Ms. Clark has upgraded the interior, painted the house and added a garage. She has completed some research on the property. In 1851, the owner L.C. Allen was the brother to Harmon Allen, the founder of Milan. She has not made application for a historic district yet.

Alice Ralph made a motion to help Ms. Clark with her nomination as needed and delegate administration authority to MMP. Martha Churchill seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Business:

Officer Election:

Tabled

Commissioner Reappointments:

Tabled

2010 Calendar

Elmer White moved that the calendar reflect the meeting dates for the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission as: Feb 11, May 6, Sep. 2 and Nov. 4 in 2010. Martha Churchill seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

HDC Ordinance Changes

Discussion: Alice Ralph hesitant to change language because it may facilitate other changes made by the Board.

Alice Ralph moved to not make recommendations to change the HDC Ordinance. Paul Darling seconded. Vote was seven for and two opposing. Motion carried to not make changes.

Bylaws Changes

Alice Ralph moved to approve amendments to Bylaws. Paul Darling seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Standing Rules Changes

Alice moved to approve changes to the Standing Rules. Paul Darling seconded. Vote unanimous. Motion carried.

USS Washtenaw County Exhibition Repair Update

Elmer White reported money is in the bank for the museum quality case; but a decision to finish all four sides and add electricity to the case now requires additional funding. They are working on the option of adding a video element to the exhibition case.

Goals:

Alice Ralph moved to postpone Goals to next meeting. No second or vote was heard.

Suggested agenda items for next meeting:

Peter Kelley wants to add discussion about appointing a standing committee to identify historic district locations.

Report on Native American Trails.

Adjournment

Elmer White moved to adjourn the meeting and Charles Gray seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm through general agreement.

The next HDC meeting is scheduled for Thursday 6 May 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center (LRC), 4135 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI.