

Washtenaw County Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

DATE:	Thursday, July 9, 2009
TIME:	5:30 p.m.
PLACE	Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center (LRC) 4135 Washtenaw; Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Call to Order:

- Martha Churchill called the meeting to order at 5:38p.m.

Roll Call:

- **Present:** Martha Churchill, Paul Darling, Charles Gray, Peter Kelley, Jasper Pennington, Nancy Snyder, Alice Ralph, Elmer White
- **Absent:** Jean King (excused)
- **Staff:** Melissa Milton-Pung
- **Also Present:** Conan Smith

Alice Ralph moved for approval of consent Agenda and Martha Churchill supported.

Minutes Corrections- notes in prose should be removed in future.

Public Comment:

None.

Business:

USS Washtenaw County Exhibition Repair

Staff reported that we are still waiting on a formal proposal from Multiform Studios. No update.

Goals

New HDC Brochure

Staff asked for feedback on the new version of the brochure. J. King sent some copy-editing comments. A. Ralph expressed concern for cost of printing from web, due to color saturation. Commissioners provided specific feedback on content and corrected text of brochure, and staff asked for future discussion on the expected methods and needs for distribution to communities of interest.

NA Trails Marker

Dedication to be held July 12 at 3:00 pm, at Parker Mill County Park. J. Pennington to speak. J. Pennington passed out letter from himself to P. Kelley about next steps and markers.

Other

M. Churchill pointed to the front page of *Discover Milan News* for new Arcadia Book, Electric Trolley of Washtenaw County with Hildebrandt. Book is offered for sale by the Milan Area Historical Society for \$22.00.

M. Churchill offered correction to marker at Judd Cemetery new granite marker. The correct date should be 1839-not 1833, cites Chapman 1881. Rebuttal from E.White – cites documentation.

In response to HDC Commissioners' discussion points in June meeting, staff discussed critical functions and accomplishments of HP in Washtenaw County. C. Smith asked for HDC consideration of long range strategic plan for HP in Washtenaw County. C. Smith is involved in the Economic Development Corporation and is also chairing the County budget process. HDC Commissioners voiced their interest in and support for this idea.

Potential items for consideration included:

- Tax credit application reviews to generate revenue
- Opportunities to raise awareness of HP as a tool for economic redevelopment
- Recent conversations with area Convention and Visitors Bureaus about importance of HP for local sense of place and cultural heritage tourism
- Economic Development purpose: potential ½ mil tax to attract businesses, promote Washtenaw County
- Potential allied program with Ann Arbor SPARK
- Strategic information sharing, connecting parties
- Rural open space preservation, Centennial Farms? Current List?
- Further coordination with land conservancies

C. Smith asked for next steps to frame HP in terms of Washtenaw County prosperity:

- Potential retreat on historic preservation Strategic Plan
- Potential stakeholders:
 - Planning Advisory Board
 - SPARK
 - Other HDCs in Washtenaw County
- Date? Time? Gordon Hall? Peter Kelley volunteered to help.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 5:30 p.m. at the Learning Resource Center (LRC), 4135 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor.