

Washtenaw County Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, October 8, 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 5:38p.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. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

None.

Business:

Goals

New HDC Brochure

Alice Ralph had agreed at the September meeting to make further revisions to the brochure document. She reported that she had been working diligently on revisions, but that it required more work on consistency and style than initially anticipated.

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 made in Vietnam. White pointed out the irony of selling caps made in the country where the USS Washtenaw County saw military service.

Role of Historic Preservation in Washtenaw County

Conan Smith sent his regrets for missing the meeting. Melissa Milton-Pung continued the discussion with the HDC, which examined similar issues as the August and September meetings, including the current financial state of the County, potential budget cuts, the pending elimination of the Office of Strategic Planning, and the potential elimination 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) are at stake.

Other discussion topics included:

- Commissioner Alice Ralph's testimony before the BOC in support of the HDC and historic preservation programs
- Act 88 funding proposed for non-voter referendum approval by the BOC, including funding for heritage tourism among other programs
- Role of HDC in relation to Act 88 funding

HDC Commissioners discussed speaking with their representatives on the BOC, in support of maintaining the HDC and allocation of some Act 88 funding for HDC use/staffing.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. through general agreement.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 5:30 p.m. at the Learning Resource Center (LRC), 4135 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor.