

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of Monthly Meeting

DATE: October 9, 2008
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 2010
705 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor

Call to Order:

- A. Ralph called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Roll Call

- Present: Martha Churchill, Paul Darling, Charles Gray, Peter Kelley, Jean Ledwith King, Jasper Pennington, Alice Ralph, Nancy Snyder and Elmer White
- Absent: Martha Churchill (excused), Jean Ledwith King (excused)
- Staff: Mary Kowalski and Melissa Milton-Pung of Planning & Environment
- Guests: None

Consent Agenda Approval:

- P. Kelley moved that the September 11, 2008 minutes be approved as presented, P. Darling seconded and the motion carried.
- J. Pennington recommended that the “Native American Trails” portion of the agenda be removed and C. Gray asked to add an item revisiting the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church marker. Snyder suggested that the idea of meeting at the Ypsilanti Library in November also be put on the agenda. P. Kelley moved to adopt the agenda as amended, C. Gray seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Business:

Rawsonville School Follow-up

C. Gray noted that YCUA has no plans to pay to move the school to its new site, but Commissioner Sizemore is working to get the building moved. It may be a possibility to ask Ypsilanti Township to cover the costs of the move, and other ideas (including contacting Congressman Dingell and utilizing retired skilled laborers in the County) were also discussed. There is no need for other members of the HDC to do anything at this time; Gray and staff will continue to work on the project.

Local Historic Districts Update

M. Milton-Pung distributed a report on the Local Historic Districts that she and Anthony Timek, Historic Preservation Intern, visited in July and August and noted that every visit was cordial and valuable. There may be a Certificate of Appropriateness review coming up for the Milton and Kittie Geer house, as the owners are thinking of putting in a kitchen addition.

M. Milton-Pung noted that she did not visit the Delhi Bridge or the Conant Farm, as they were visited recently. In addition, the USS Washtenaw artifacts are in deep storage. E. White suggested that once they are located they be displayed at the Naval Architecture

school at UM. M. Milton-Pung noted that three of the LHDs also have conservation easements to protect the land as well as the structures.

HDC Awards

P. Kelley reported that he would work on the wording for the Northfield Township homes and will keep in contact with P. Darling on this.

Northfield Township Historic Sites

Kelley reported that the O'Brien farm owners may be interested in local historic designation, and are weighing the benefits/burdens for it. The Devereauxs are also interested in designation and M. Milton-Pung will work with P. Kelley getting them to write a letter to the Township requesting designation.

Kelley also reported on some additional potential historic sites in Northfield, including the bent tree where two trails meet, the Irish farm community that includes four local farms, and the O'Conner Drain, which predates the Drain Commissioner law.

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Marker

Pastor Wilson has expressed concern that the marker has not yet been put up; M. Milton-Pung has been out of town, but has spoken with Pastor Wilson and will continue to work with Washtenaw County Facilities Management to get it set.

CLG Grant Proposals

N. Snyder noted that the CLG grant applications will likely be due in November or December and that they have not yet issued a Request for Proposals. M. Milton-Pung noted that she made a commitment last year to revisit this issue with the HDC prior to the 2009 CLG grant announcement in December 2008. She said that it is not likely that we will apply for a grant. It is questionable whether the County will be able to meet the 40% match required for CLG grants, and the number of dollars available may not be worth the cost in staff time to prepare and support another grant project. It seems unlikely that the Rawsonville School project will qualify for such a grant, as CLG grants do not fund the moving of historic buildings.

November Meeting – Ypsilanti Library?

N. Snyder reported that the Ypsilanti Library would be happy to host an HDC meeting at any future date.

The next dedication of a historic marker will be at the Braman Hotel in Milan on Saturday, November 1.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Milton-Pung
Principal Preservation Planner
Department of Planning & Environment
Washtenaw County Government