



Royal Oak

Minutes

Royal Oak Historic District Study Committee Meeting

March 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
City Hall Conference Room 116
203 South Troy Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Present: Chairperson Tammis Donaldson
Patrick Andras
Chris Kraska
Jeffrey Ridley
Eric Romain
Leslie Snow
Leo Derdelakos

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m.

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the March 21, 2024, historic district study committee agenda.

Moved by: Leo Derdelakos
Seconded by: Chris Kraska

Motion Adopted

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 15, 2024, historic district study committee meeting minutes.

Moved by: Eric Romain
Seconded by: Leo Derdelakos

Motion Adopted

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Historic Preservation Observations in Royal Oak

6.a Lost

6.a.1 Pasquales 31555 Woodward Avenue

6.b Endangered

Jeff Ridley asked about the unique building at 1413 Crooks built in 1927. Eric Romain and Chris Kraska will do more research on this property.

Eric Romain displayed SEMCOG map and Oakland County website with map of 1940 of Royal Oak.

7. Historic Group Reports

7.a Historical Commission

Patrick Andras reported he, Alex Kerrigan and Rick Karlowski will meet with three members of the historical society and Assistant to the City Manager Susan Barkman on April 2 2024 to discuss the potential of a merger. Civil War Day is May 18. There will be no March meeting as everyone on vacation due to spring break; next meeting April 24. Working on inventory which is a big project. HC will be marching in the Memorial Day Parade and members of the HDSC are welcome to join the HC.

7.b Historic District Commission

No updates to present.

8. Vinsetta Bridges Historic District

8.a Review Process and Next Steps

Everyone expressed pleasure the ordinance has passed and there was a nice story in C&G Royal Oak Review latest edition about the Vinsetta Bridges Historic District.

Now that bridges are designated they need treatment. Alan Higgins from State Historic Preservation Office said we need a structure report to begin. Chair Donaldson has done preliminary research. There are four treatments outlined by the Secretary of the Interior for the National Parks Service for historic properties: rehabilitation, preservation, restoration, and reconstruction. She also spoke with Alan Higgins of the State Historic Preservation Office who advised the first step should be to obtain a structure report and evaluate which bridges require treatments; and which treatments should be pursued.

Factors to consider: survey required; how does HDSC proceed to get treatment costs; establish guidelines; are there vendors willing to do a small project like this; how do we get a vendor to supply a scope of work and pricing without actually getting the award of contract will have to be

bid out. And, we know to get a Certified Local Government grant you cannot pick a vendor.

Staff liaison Schwanger suggested a task force comprised of two or three members of the HDSC and HDC. Chair Donaldson will reach out to Patrick Sharrak the HDC chair. Chris Kraska; and Eric Romain volunteered to represent the HDSC along with Chair Donaldson on the task force.

9. Unfinished Business

9.a Historic Context Report

New date of March 29th to receive the report. We will wait to see if we get and if the product is acceptable.

9.b 2023 Historic District Annual Report

City commission was pleased. And city attorney was complimentary.

10. New Business

10.a Marketing Preservation

Reviewed the city's website and there are several errors on the history pages. Group also felt the it should be under About Royal Oak. Need to clean up contact information as well because volunteers personal phone numbers and emails.

10.a.1 Review of Marketing Materials and Plan

Map with historic districts; resources to direct people to research their own homes; add the flow chart of "how to designate"; can all be added to the city website.

Leo Derdelakos received feedback from members on tweaks to documents he created and what other things we should include- resources, maps, examples, documents.

Check other communities to see what they are doing for best practices.

10.b Potential Historic Resources to be Studied

703 Woodcrest Patrick Adras hand delivered the letter. There has not been any response but it appears owners may be out of town.

10.b.1 Murals at Royal Oak Middle School

No updates.

11. Committee Member Comments

Chair Donaldson reiterated anyone interested in the Michigan Historic May 9-11, 2024. Jeff Ridley will let staff liaison Carol Schwanger know as he is interested.

Chris Kraska presented a report template for homes he has from former Chair Ruth Cleaveland. It could act as a log of homes/properties the HDSC does preliminary studies of but do not meet the full criterium for designation. The log includes a photo and "fun" facts" and would be a living history of the resources. These can be created in Microsoft Teams which allows everyone to contribute concurrently and it is online.

Chris Kraska used Jeff Ridley's home as an example. He was able to trace past owners (including Dondero family); how the home acted as a business The Lakeside Tavern. He also traced the surrounding properties including when the adjacent homes were built, their owners, when roads were built, how the pond became to be, transportation in the area. Many founding members of Royal Oak lived and/or property in addition to the Donderos, the Hagelstein, Hilzinger, Reynolds; Starr; Bradley, and Woods families.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:11p.m.

Moved by: Patrick Andras

Seconded by: Chris Kraska

Motion Adopted