



Minutes

Royal Oak Historic District Study Committee Meeting

June 20, 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 by Chairperson Tammis Donaldson at 7:05 pm.

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Eric Romain

Seconded by: Chris Kraska

Motion to approve the June 20, 2024 historic district study committee agenda approved.

Motion Adopted

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Chris Kraska

Seconded by: Eric Romain

Motion to approve the April 18 and May 16, 2024 historic district study committee meetings minutes approved.

Motion Adopted

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Historic Preservation Observations in Royal Oak

6.a Lost

6.a.1 Forest Avenue Presentation by Eric Romain

Thirty-three percent of houses have been demolished in the past twenty years. Feel it is time to begin to document all the houses photographically. The HDSC will also begin to include a "Documentation" category for future meeting

6.b Threatened

6.b.1 Forest Avenue Presentation by Eric Romain

7. Unfinished Business

7.a Historic Context Report: Review Period

Chair Tammi Donaldson reported she had read the report and from her own family history she observed that women are underrepresented. This led her to propose a category "pioneering families" and get more of the underrepresented populations (such as the Hamer family). Chris Kraska noted that those who were "ordinary" people often have less of a record because they did not own property, yet still contributed. He also noted that minimal traditional Mid Century homes should be included. Members must send feedback to the Tammi Donaldson by Monday, July 15.

8. New Business

8.a Marketing Preservation

8.a.1 City Website Updates, Corrections, and Additions

Began correcting some inaccuracies. SL Schwanger was unable to update pictures; she will require more permissions and training.

8.a.1.1 May 20th Work Session of the Marketing Group

Leslie Snow will update the language on the FAQ sheet and make it more readable. A section for a checklist will be added.

8.a.2 Clio Software and Royal Oak Minutes

Tabled

8.b Potential New Work

8.b.1 WPA Murals at Dondero

The process needs to be studied because the WPA Murals all belong to the federal government. Would like to study one that has already

been designated. Patrick Andras will call Gary Briggs to ask if he knows of any that have been designated. He will also ask Mr. Briggs about acquiring DVDs of the entire process of the restoration.

8.b.2 Hartle Property on Sunnybrook

On pause as HDSC is quite busy right now. Chair Donaldson requested Secretary Leslie Snow send a letter to the property owner. The HDSC will set up a site visit in the fall.

8.b.3 Frederick Madison (architect) House

Still no response from the property owner.

8.b.4 Lockwood Presentation by Eric Romain

Block has not had homes demolished, speculation would be because of the lot size. 28 homes on what's now known as Lockwood (formerly Guthrie). Built by Johnston-Brommell, Inc. (Dearborn or Detroit), 1926. Builder specialized in these types of all in one developments. All 28 still stand. 2 story frame construction. 4 distinct styles: Tudor-y gables with the chimney varying in placement due to what side of the street and how much sunlight the home would receive, therefore keeping sun out of bedrooms; bungalow style; Dutch colonial; side gable with attached porch.

8.c Vinsetta Bridges Task Force

8.c.1 Documenting Existing Bridges

8.c.1.1 Laser Scan and As-build CAD Drawings by RAW3D

Laser Scan will take place on Thursday June 26 at 10:00a.m. (June 27th is the rain date). All members are invited to attend and observe as the scan takes place.

SL Schwanger reported on grant application which would cover \$2000 or the \$2950 fee from the Civic Foundation. No word on if we received it yet. She will keep the HDSC members update.

8.c.2 Treatment Program: Investigation in Progress

8.c.3 Town Hall Meeting July 31, 2024 and On-site Event

Consideration will need to have an alternate site in case of weather issues. Time to start. How compact should the compact report be.

9. Draft Bylaws with Ordinance Incorporated

SL Schwanger is working through section 6. Members should review and provide feedback.

10. Summer Schedule July and August Work Sessions

July 18 and August 15, 7 pm, City Hall Room 116

11. Historic Group Reports

11.a Historic District Commission

11.b Historical Commission

Patrick Andras reported Civil War Day was great success. Excellent weather led to large attendance.

HC is planning 180th Year Celebration. Merger with HC and historical society (HS) is on hold as neither group wanted to do the merger, especially the HS who would have to really increase their fundraising to pay for maintenance of both properties.

The fence was recently repainted by the Eagle Scouts and the roof needs some repairs.

12. Committee Member Comments

Chris Kraska reported he went on tours of Frank Lloyd Wrights office in Oak Park, took river tour, park tour.

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Patrick Andras

Seconded by: Leslie Snow

Motion to adjourn at 9:04p.m. approved.

Motion Adopted