

Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 7, 2016

1. Meeting was called to order 7:08 pm by Don Hoefler, Chair.
2. In attendance: Cathie Gillis, Jessica Herzig, John Horvat, Don Hoefler, James Koeppen, and John Wright. Missing: Sandy Johnstone, Douglas Mooney (moved out of PR) and Conrad Stack. Also in attendance: Amy Drealan – City Clerk, Darren Humphrey and Bret Scott – City Commission Liaison.
3. Consideration of June 1, 2016 meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Jessica Herzig, second by Cathie Gillis. All in favor.
4. Public Comments – Items not on the Agenda: N/A
5. Treasurer’s report for June – August 2016 by John Horvat: Revenues: \$7,643.67; Expenditures: \$2,845.73; Ending balance: \$13,008.90. Motion to approve by Cathie Gillis, second by John Wright. All in favor. (Missing \$650 in advertising revenue and expense from James Koeppen for afterglow food.)
6. Consideration of the Historical Commission updates:
 - a. Home and Garden Tour
 - i. Overall feedback regarding the tour was very positive, but several improvements were noted.
 1. Have wrist bands for people that don’t need or want books (reduces the cost of printing and the tour participant does not have to carry the book).
 2. On the tour book map, consider using letters instead of numbers (sometimes there is confusion that the number is an address).
 3. There was one (very verbal) tour participant that was complaining at several houses. Should we offer refunds when this happens?
 - ii. There was a theft of a Montblanc pen from one of the homes.
 1. Homeowners have no interest in taking it further. No police report filed.
 2. In future years, we should warn homeowners to put away smaller/expensive items and mention to docents to look after these items if not put away (may require more docents in future years depending on the house).

3. Don't allow backpacks or large purses to enter homes.

b. Historical Museum Staffing

i. Third Saturday of the month from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

1. September 17, 2016 – Bret Scott (has key) and Conrad Stack (need to confirm)
2. October 15, 2016 – John Wright
3. November 19, 2016 – Jessica Herzig and Cathie Gillis
4. December 17, 2016 - TBD

ii. The property database is available on a CD for Historical Commissioners to send home files. We will also see if we can put these files in the cloud or private network so we can access from home.

iii. General museum notes: \$10 donation to email home file. The person holding the museum key should bring it to our monthly meeting and give to the next person opening the museum. The Wednesday prior to the museum opening, have someone do a Facebook post notifying residents when it will be open.

c. Speaker Series

i. There are no confirmed speakers at this time. The following are ideas we have been tossing around in the last several meetings:

ii. History of the Pleasant Ridge pool.

iii. Don Hoefler and James Koeppen met with Dave and Sandra Smith on Oxford and obtained the remaining videos that aired on the cities government channel. They brought up the subject of the Smith's doing a speaker series and they are thinking it over. Don Hoefler will contact Scott Pietrzak who has the rest of the videos which we believe may have been digitized.

iv. James Koeppen will reach out to Dan Austin who wrote "Forgotten Landmarks of Detroit" or Gregory C. Piazza who wrote "A History of Detroit Palmer Woods" to see if they have interest.

v. There is a strong interest by residents to learn how to research their homes. We discussed doing a field trip to learn ourselves. We would include information on how to research your home through the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library and Oakland County records in Pontiac.

- vi. Andrew Mutch writes a blog about southeastern Michigan Sears kit homes. Specific to Pleasant Ridge, he has confirmed two homes are Sears's kit homes. One on Kensington and one on Devonshire. Andrew will be doing a speaker series in Huntington Woods on September 21st and is willing to also do something in Pleasant Ridge.
7. Consideration of the City Commission Liaison Report by Bret Scott:
- a. The city is considering single-stream recycling (one large recycle can that does not have to be separated in the truck).
 - b. The city is considering electronic access to the recreation center and extending the hours. (Evaluating risk and demand.) Staffing times will not change.
 - c. There was no meeting in August as nothing was on the agenda.
 - d. Beautification awards will be presented at the September meeting.
 - e. 100 year old homes presentation and plaques will be presented at the November meeting.
8. Other Business:
- a. Amy Drealan asked us to think about our interest level in becoming a Historical Society instead of a Jr. Commission.
 - i. If we changed to a Historical Society, we would set up a 503c. We would create our operating rules, lease the museum from the city for a low price, etc.
 - ii. Royal Oak and Ferndale are set up like this as well as the Pleasant Ridge Foundation.
 - iii. The Pleasant Ridge Garden Club recently changed to a 503c.
 - iv. Members may be interested in speaking with George Lenko and Robert Campbell to get feedback on positives and negatives if we change.
 - v. Further discussion can take place in the October meeting.
 - b. It looks like we will have 3 openings on the Historical Commission to be filled in January. Bret Scott will bring this up in the City Commission meeting. Check with your neighbors, friends, etc. to see if anyone is interested in joining.
 - c. Don Hoefler will coordinate a full re-vamp of the Historical Commission website with Scott Pietrzak.
 - d. Need an e-mail set up – Historical@PR.org. Discuss after the tour.
9. Adjournment at 8:02 pm. Motion by Jessica Herzig, second by James Koeppen. All in favor.