

Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 1, 2017

1. Meeting was called to order 7:05 pm by Don Hoefler, Chair.
2. In attendance: Cathie Gillis, Amber Herrick, Jessica Herzig, Don Hoefler, Lauran Howard, James Koeppen, Nick Kokotovich and John Wright. Missing: Conrad Stack. Also in attendance: Darren Humphrey, Bret Scott – City Commission Liaison and Robert Campbell – Chairman Pleasant Ridge Garden Club.
3. Consideration of January 4, 2017 meeting minutes: Motion to approve by James Koeppen, second by Jessica Herzig. All in favor.
4. Public Comments – Items not on the Agenda: Robert Campbell asked if we would be willing to join forces with the Garden Club to fund lighting in Stevenson Park and possibly Poplar Park. James Breuckman is open to discuss, but would need to review and approve the plans. We need to be careful of light pollution. The street lights might be overkill and are \$3k-5K a piece, but would match the existing lighting in Memorial Park. We could also look at landscape lighting to reduce costs or a combination. We could start with a couple and then add as money becomes available. Electrical would have to be run from City Hall and under Oakland Park Blvd. City would cover costs of running the lights once installed. We would have a budget of \$20k, \$10k from each group. Next step would be for Robert to discuss with the city and find someone that can help us design the lighting project. We should also fix the light in front of the police booth.
5. Welcome new members:
 - a. Amber Herrick
 - b. Lauran Howard
 - c. Nick Kokotovich
6. Treasurer's report for January and February 2017 by Don Hoefler: Revenues: \$293.78; Expenditures: \$60.48; Ending balance: \$14,182.33. Motion to approve by John Wright, second by Cathie Gillis. All in favor.
7. Consideration of the Historical Commission updates:
 - a. Speaker Series
 - i. John Wright and Scott Pietrzak are planning a session on the history of the Pleasant Ridge pool. Article in spring Ridger asking for stories and pictures. The session is scheduled for Wednesday, August 2, 2017.

1. Topics to be included:
 - a. Use of 4 Ridge prior to 1960. (PR Then And Now)
 - b. Recreation in PR
 - c. First pool and early community center 1960
 - d. Stock certificates
 - e. New pool 1992
 - f. Bath house replacement, community center addition, 2003
 2. Visuals:
 - a. News clips, pictures, "vote no" flyer, "vote yes" pins, swim show flyers, videos of meets and swim shows
- ii. The following are ideas we have been tossing around and want to keep on our radar:
1. 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 did a speaker series in Huntington Woods on September 21st and is willing to also do something in Pleasant Ridge. John Wright and James Koeppen went to the presentation and it was very interesting. Becky Uber thinks there other kit homes in PR and can provide details.
 2. 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.
 3. 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.
 4. 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.

- b. 2017 Home and Garden Tour
 - i. 2017 tour date will be June 10th.
 - ii. Cathie discussed possible homes and gardens. We need to start canvassing and let the group know of any confirmed homes or gardens.
 - iii. Jessica sent email to Kurt Metzger and James Breuckman for quotes for the media release; goal should be to know high level list of homes for the April meeting. Won't send media release until we know the number of homes and gardens. Jessica will update all of the documents and templates.
- c. Museum Staffing
 - i. Third Saturday of the month from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.
 - 1. March 18, 2017 – James Koeppen
 - 2. April 15, 2017 – Conrad Stack
 - 3. May 20, 2017 – Lauran Howard
 - ii. The property database is available on 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 meeting and give to the next person opening the museum. A few days prior to the museum opening, have someone do a Facebook post notifying residents when it will be open.
- 8. Consideration of the City Commission Liaison Report by Bret Scott:
 - a. 4 Ridge has rolled out electronic access cards. Hours are 5:00 am until midnight 365 days a year. Cameras are installed in the entrance way and in the gym area.
 - b. The animal ordinance was approved in the February Commission meeting.
 - c. The PR Foundation will be doing some enhancements at the back end of 4 Ridge in 2017, would be good to incorporate into the pool Speaker Series.
- 9. Other Business:
 - a. Lauran Howard reviewed the wildflower garden plans near the police booth and for some work in front of it. The plans include adding winter interest as well as a historic

artifact. Lauran will work Priscilla Eagen to price out the work, but thinking it will be under \$1,000. We would split the costs with the Garden Club.

- b. Jessica Herzig made a motion to spend up to \$10k for the lighting project and up to \$1k for the landscaping project. Costs of both will be split with Garden Club. Second by Nick Kokotovich. All in favor.
 - c. John Wright mentioned we need to fix the storm door on the Police Booth. Darren will have Tim from DPW take a look at it.
 - d. Museum now has an old wool police uniform that is now in the museum. Need to get a hook for it or come up with a way to display it. Check with Janet Davis and Huntington, anything to preserve it?
 - e. Centennial home article running in Detroit News, date to be determined.
 - f. Don Hoefler will coordinate a full re-vamp of the Historical Commission website with Scott Pietrzak.
10. Adjournment at 8:45 pm. Motion by Jessica Herzig, second by Nick Kokotovich. All in favor.