

.Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 5, 2017

1. Meeting was called to order 7:02 pm by Don Hoefler, Chair.
2. In attendance: Cathie Gillis, Amber Herrick, Jessica Herzig, Don Hoefler, Lauran Howard, Nick Kokotovich, Conrad Stack and John Wright. Missing: James Koeppen. Also in attendance: Bret Scott – City Commission Liaison and Amy Drealan – City Clerk.
3. Consideration of March 1, 2017 meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Lauran Howard, second by Jessica Herzig. All in favor.
 - a. Minutes should have included a note for new members to join one of the next couple of museum openings to see how things run before they open on their own.
4. Public Comments – Items not on the Agenda: None
5. Treasurer’s report for March 2017 by Conrad Stack: Revenues: \$30.00; Expenditures: \$50.00; Ending balance: \$14,162.33. Motion to approve by Cathie Gillis, second by Nick Kokotovich. All in favor.
6. 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. Bath house 1992
 - f. Bath house replacement, community center addition, second pool (2003 vote, 2004 construction)
 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. Homes need to be confirmed by April 12th if we want the cities assistance this year for the tour book. With road construction on Norwich and Hanover scheduled this year, plus the pool opening, etc., we need to provide all book materials as soon as possible if we are holding the home & garden tour this year. Avoid homes on Norwich and Hanover due to construction.

- iv. Jessica has quote from Kurt Metzger and James Breuckman for the media release. 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. April 15, 2017 – Cathie, Luran, Nick
 - 2. May 20, 2017 – Conrad Stack
 - 3. June 10, 2017 – TBD (Open during the tour. If there is no home & garden tour, museum will not open in June.)
- 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.

d. Lighting in Parks

- i. James Breuckman, Robert Campbell and Don Hoefler met to discuss the possibilities about adding lighting in Stevenson and Poplar Parks. Funding would come from the Historical Commission, Garden Club and possibly the Foundation. Luran will speak with Robert about the Foundation and see if they voted. If they voted yes, then we need to know who would represent the Foundation. James agreed to contract with Illuminart through Peter Basso Associates to provide lighting design options for us to consider. The Illuminart service would include three different options and budgetary direction. The proposal also includes 1 meeting to review the lighting options.

7. Consideration of the City Commission Liaison Report by Bret Scott:

- a. Norwich and Hanover construction will occur over the next 3 – 4 months for street replacement and sidewalk repairs starting with Norwich.

8. Other Business:

- a. Luran Howard reported the Garden Club has started the work to spruce up the gardens around the Historical Museum.

- b. John Wright mentioned we need to fix the storm door on the Police Booth. Conrad and John will do.
 - c. Concrete step is crumbling, Amy will look into the cost of a concrete casted step.
 - d. We can start holding meetings in the Historical Museum if we prefer. Some brought up concerns about lack of space. Will consider holding a workshop in the museum in the summer. (After home and garden tour.)
 - 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.
9. Adjournment at 8:05 pm. Motion by John Wright, second by Cathie Gillis. All in favor.