

Minutes

Historic Preservation Commission

City of Kalamazoo



Wednesday, March 12th , 2025

6:00 PM

City Commission Chambers at City Hall – 241 West South Street

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Called to order at 6:01pm.

Harris moved to approve the absence of Vail.

Paduk 2nd motion.

B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

Pena needs to add to F 1 Discussion/Action Items nee to have a motion for the reappointment of Nora Harris, Patrick Vail and Dusti Morton to a second term on the HPC.

Morton motion to accept agenda as listed.

Akina 2nd.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hibbard F 1 we approved the disbursement of funds didn't specify which account it was coming from.

F2 Dave is missing E at end of his last name.

Block end of March what does that mean needs to be taken out.

Morton moved to approve as amended

Akina 2nd

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Evan Kutzler associate professor of history at Western Michigan University wanted to provide the commission with an update on public history project that my students and I have been working on. Last fall we have been looking at Westnedge Park/Pioneer Cemetery and all the other names it has gone by over 200 years. The first phase was an intro to public history class. The second phase is stating in late spring where we will be bringing ground penetrating radar with geosciences at Western Michigan University. In phase two is where I am starting to think about what does the next phase look like. I am here offering public comment but also soliciting input either today or through email for what permanent digital or physical interpretation of the space might look like. Is it a permanent digital exhibit or temporary exhibit at the community space at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum or a physical wayside. I am open to ideas and in the next couple of months be able to secure a little funding externally from Kalamazoo in making a reality. Pena will share Dr. Kutzlers information with the commissioners.

E. REPORTS

1. Financial Report
Pena read report
2. O'Connor Fund Report
Pena read report
3. Historic Preservation Awards of Merit
Harris we have added a question to the nomination process which is please expound on how this person/project advances historic preservation in Kalamazoo, in particular underrepresented or untold stories. And share any important lessons learned along the way. Nominations are open now and shared on Facebook and on the City of Kalamazoos website. The Goal for the subcommittee we wanted to also include criteria for judging nominations when we receive them. At the bottom of the document you will see the questions we generated that everyone on the commission can read and consider when judging. If anyone that is not part of the subcommittee has ideas for additional criteria on how to judge nominations we could talk about that or talk further over email. Pena this will close on the 2nd of April to include it in our April 9th meeting. I have five in right now but have a lot of repeats on some properties. Subcommittees can also get together review them and bring forth nominations or recommendations that they went over and these are what we think are the strongest ones.
4. City Hall LHD
Hibbard said there was no change on the report.
5. Encouraging Community-Wide Engagement Subcommittee Report
Edison we went over first Noras draft for the letter that's in front of you set it up to give to groups or make available. We will check and see if there is a website we can at KHPC to have communication through that to the general public. Harris we want to distribute this letter to introduce or reintroduce ourselves to as many organizations as we can in the community. We talked about in person to have one on one conversations but being our first step we decided a better use of our time to go with email. I will be working on making a database for collecting everyones email and then distributing it that way. Edison a discussion of the 50 year historic line for what is historic or not. Talked about a lot of groups on our list that aren't 50 years old. Decided to not just follow the 50 year line absolutely. We will consider more recent things that are important on history. Next meeting getting material to you and submitted to Pena. Morton Melissa and I got together to talk about our goals for primarily this publication there is some community outreach we want to do that will wait until month at the earliest due to some of our community partners not in town right now. we have been sketching out a pocket guide for Kalamazoo cemeteries working on what it is going to look like. We have a rough draft that Luis has seen, and we are well on our way to hitting our deadlines. Our next meeting will be soon to keep sketching this out.

F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

Nora appointed to first full term, Partrick to his second full term, Dusty to be appointed to first full term. Pena motion could be along the lines of a motion to recommend the reappointment of Nora and Dusty for their first full term with the Historic Preservation Commission and Patrick for his second full term on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Edison so moved

Paduk 2nd.

Unanimous

G. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

1. Coordinator's Report
Pena read report.

H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Edison at the ancient garden beds committee meeting last night one thing that came up was how can we help move along the history boards and signs that to go at the mounds and other locations around the city. Pena I don't think necessarily at this time it is very important that when dealing with stuff that directly relates to a tribe that the tribe should also be in those conversations. We are still moving forward with it. Morton do we have a time frame at all and how do we see movement? Pena might not see movement on that one right now but it is moving forward.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Vail moved to adjourn 6:40pm.

The mission of the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission is to educate the public and city leaders on the value of preserving the City's historic resources and to advise the City Commission accordingly. Questions and comments regarding this agenda should be directed to the Historic Preservation Coordinator at 337-8804.

Comments under the "Public Comments" section of the agenda are limited to four minutes per speaker. During agenda items, comments from members of the public are also limited to four minutes each, unless the speaker is invited to join in the discussion by the Commission.