

# Minutes

## Historic Preservation Commission

City of Kalamazoo



Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

6:00 PM

City Commission Chambers at City Hall – 241 West South Street

**A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Called to order at 6:03pm.

**B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA**

Pena E 2 move down to F3. Strike F2

Vail moved to approve

Paduk 2<sup>nd</sup>

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Edison C Wyatt Szpliet has food sovereignty and from Little River Band. Roupe spelled wrong should be Rupe. Cleaning sones needs T for stones. Paduk in H should be Paduk not Harris. Hibbard E 2 O'Connor OK1. 4<sup>th</sup> sentence delete they. E 4 Jay Cee's not JC.

Vail motion to approve as amended

Morton 2<sup>nd</sup>

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Pam for the Sextons Lodge, I would like to suggest to the commission that a decision is made to ask for a little bit more of a complete assessment of the issue as well as a detailed estimate of what money is needed and how much. Also consider asking the city to help in taking care of that expense and HPC consider matching amount rather than agreeing to do the whole thing. I support you doing something I know its bad I have not been in there recently.

**E. REPORTS**

1. Financial Report  
Pena read report

2. O'Connor Fund Report

3. City Hall Designation Effort  
Hibbard we are having a meeting later this month, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm in the Community Room.

4. MI SHPO Preservation Plan Workshop Summary  
Akina updated some other in person workshops. The next one will be July 17<sup>th</sup> in Mount Pleasant, Marquette September 8<sup>th</sup>, Petoskey September 10<sup>th</sup> and 2 virtual

in August and September. There may be one in Detroit, but it has not been scheduled yet. On the statewide historic preservation plan work site, you can get the information. The survey is open until July 18<sup>th</sup>. Edison what kind of interaction did they have you do. Akina small group works and share with the larger group.

5. Threats to Historic Preservation

Akina, Pam forward emails and resources and I listed them and potential ones at the end. The office of management budget did release the notice of funding opportunities for the Historic Preservation Fund July 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2026 funding. Looks like large cuts to the Historic Preservation Fund and National Parks Service. Pam, Luis do maintain a membership for the Preservation Commission? Pena, I think this slipped through the cracks with the transitioned from Sharron to me doing it. I need to get a handle on the money not sure if Sharron was automatically paying for those things out of the budget or not. I have not received a letter asking if I want to renew the dues.

6. Section 106 Reviews- Quarter 2

Pena read report.

7. Gravestone Cleaning Report

Morton August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1 day cemetery conference in Allegan register on Facebook spaces are limited, its free the link is in the report. Next year the Association of Gravestone Setting is coming to Grand Rapids. Talk of it coming to Kalamazoo for a day at Mount Home and Riverside will have more information next month. Hibbard there is a cleaning this Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>.

**F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM**

1. Sexton's Lodge Financial Support

Pena Sextons Lodge has been broken into two times. Last year broke in and tossed the place a little bit the first time wasn't bad, broke the banister and spindles on the banister. The next break in was worse. They were living there, they were eating, going to the bathroom, ripped off glass on one of the fireplaces and started fires, leaving clothes in there, food and trash. Had hazmat come and clean. This set up alarms more than the last break in. How to secure this building was suggested concrete or glass for the windows. I can't tell them what to do but I have suggested solutions. I suggested thicker plywood with carriage bolts and getting security cameras for the building, but they have no WIFI right now. I can go back to them and get prices for boarding the lower level. I looked at 5000.00 to get it done. I will go to the cemetery and see how much. Pam, who would be there for the repairs? Pena I would physically be there and watch them do it. Edison, who is responsible for this? Pena public services. The building is still in good shape. Vail, do you see 5000.00 as a temporary solution to get the building stable until a more extensive project can be done in the future? Pena 100 percent we just need to stop people from coming in. Vail, from a gift standpoint we have not had any other gifts this year. Pena, I don't know from our meeting today if anything will stop us from giving ourselves. Pam, no, but I am concerned about if you would choose to make a gift for this project without pushing the city to be responsible, you may be seen as a bank account for the city. Vail, so this is not us giving the city 5000.00 to do this. This would be the Historic Preservation Commission purchasing someone to be installed with the blessing of the city.

Pena, I am not sure yet because they have not boarded up the other two windows yet. I will work that out next month to vote on it. Vail, I like this better if it is a project that we are doing and not a project we are just funding.

2. O'Connor Fund Report  
Vail move to disburse 15,000 to KNAC upon completion of their project for the award of this grant from the O'Connor 2 grant making account.  
Edison 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Unanimous

#### **G. COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

1. Coordinator's Report  
Pena read report

#### **H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

#### **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Hibbard moved to adjourn 7:27 pm.

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.