

Minutes

Historic Preservation Commission

City of Kalamazoo



Wednesday, August 13th, 2025

6:00 PM

City Commission Chambers at City Hall – 241 West South Street

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Called to order at 6:01

B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

Morton moved to approve

Harris 2nd

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hibbard in F1 bottom of page Sextons Lodge purchasing someone needs to be purchasing something.

Vail moved to approve as amended

Paduk 2nd

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pam about one year ago I wrote an article on History of City Hall building and has been accepted by Encore magazine and will be published next month. Which is the 94th birthday of the building and is called City Hall at 94. When you come to the community engagement report there is a letter we got in the packet that we combined during our other meeting.

E. REPORTS

1. Financial Report

Pena read report

2. O'Connor Fund Report

Pam an update from the 8425 Luis and I talked about the responses we got from the Community Foundation and sent another round of questions, and we summarized everything. In the process of doing that we came up with a couple more questions that we returned to them on the 6th. Friday last week we got a response they would get back to us. Hibbard, I did sign the grant paperwork, is there any update on that? Pena no but we can go ahead and get started on work. Matt Klouse called me asking if anything needed any historic review, I told them no. Waiting on Shippo to make sure they are going to get a tax credit.

3. Encouraging Community Wide Engagement Report

Pena once we make contact with folks and they let us know that they would like some help in some capacity. What we do next and how do we move forward is

the intent of the point underneath number three. Edison, I know in the past DEI went to groups and met with them. It seemed to be running up and not getting past the meeting and had nothing come out of it. It's better they come to us instead of us searching for them. The meeting went through two letters introducing what we are about in Community Engagement a third was drafted I have not looked at. Vail the third was what Pam wrote. Vail emailed to the commission. The sub committee can make changes and get back to Pena and get a target date to send them. We will talk about the list and letter at the next meeting.

4. City Hall Local Historic District Report
Pena, the communications team reached out to me today. SHPO put out a press release today saying the awardees were for CLG grants. MLive and WWMT also picked up the article. They both published an article saying that City Hall was one of the recipients of CLG funds to assess City Hall. That's the first step to address some of the damage to City Hall. We get to shine the light on the CLG program they are doing a lot of work, 250,000 work in the state of Michigan to help out communities.
5. Work Plan Request for Consideration
Hibbard, Pam submitted a summary of what we established in our last planning session for our goals and what we need to do to accomplish them and try to assign timetables and responsibilities for our next planning session. We will have another meeting to discuss this we can have one or two meetings. Email Pena on what will work for the commission needs to be this Friday 8/15/25.

F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

1. 2026 Draft Budget Review
Pena this is largely the same as last year. The budget from last year we had a lot of issues were the expenditure exceeding our revenues. The numbers were not as tight as we wanted them. We are still seeing \$26,000 being shown and \$26,000 including the placeholder of \$25,000 that we can pull over from the O'Connor fund, making the budget look much larger than it is. Hibbard sponsorships mean gifts. Pena yes when they made the new vessel for the O'Connor fund. Pena this is a draft we have to have the final done by October 27th, 2025.

G. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

1. Coordinator's Report
There will be a gravestone in place for the person that was exhumed at Pioneer Cemetery. There was a car crash in the 200 block of East Michigan and Edwards no one was hurt thankfully. It showed to me that old buildings can stand the test of time even when met with physical damage. Work is underway to repair the building. Sextons Lodge is still waiting on estimates back to get a good number

for us. We got all the signatures for the programmatic agreement. Scott Slagger with SHPO said we need to file it with ACHP. Waiting for their response.

H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Paduk Vandercook Hall there is a third of the building still there. They removed the plaque that was above door of the remaining entrance where is said Vandercook Hall for men don't know what they did with it. Morton went to the Allegan seminar was good. A stone carver did a demonstration also let us try to carve a stone. They are planning more events like this one. Gary will have a living history tour at Mount Home Cemetery on September 6th from 1-5 there is a cost for that. Edison there is a Stuart History Homes tour October 4th and 5th. Our last Kalamazoo in Bloom the Native American garden mound project Melissa presented how the Cleo program could be used and utilized like she did for the East Main campus at Western. Hibbard, I saw that Sharon disbanded her nonprofit recently.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Hibbard moved to adjourn 7:23 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.