

Minutes

Historic Preservation Commission

City of Kalamazoo



Wednesday, March 11th, 2026

6:00 PM

City Commission Chambers at City Hall – 241 West South Street

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Called to order 6:09 PM

Vail moved to approve absence of Edison and Haris

Paduk 2nd

B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

Vail moved to approve

Morton 2nd

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hibbard in O' Connor Fund update this will bump up 15% in value. E2 5th line award go live. E5 4th from last line only 1 f. F 1 last line clear chain.

Paduk moved to approve the minutes as amended

Vail 2nd

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hibbard Pam wanted me to read a note relayed via email a reminder that registration is open for the MHP annual conference and encourages everyone to attend. There's a need for volunteers and also scholarships available. For more information consult the brochure, page 38. Which is available online at mphn.org. Application deadline for volunteering and scholarships is April 12th. She had no new numbers yet compared to what she had already submitted for last month's meeting that didn't happen. Anything else submitted from the public? Pena no.

E. REPORTS

1. Financial Report

Pena read report

2. O' Connor Fund Update

Hibbard everybody can read, but the updates from the previous, for that, the Community Foundation was meeting with the city attorney. I don't know if that happened. It looks like it was in February. Any information on that? Pena no still no information on that. Working with both parties to make sure we can set up a meeting. Reason we need to have a meeting with the two parties. So the city attorney and the Community Foundation is to go over some of the fund structural changes. We have talked about in the past where we will be having a field of interest fund set up as well, which means that the community foundation

could directly disperse grants. That would not have to pass through the city anymore, which would alleviate some of the red tape we had. So that's what the addendum and letter of direction the ALOD is that Pam is referring to. In goal one B we had some hiccups that we are working through now. We have no new numbers to discuss. We have not met since February 19th or 20th when we had the preapplication meeting. I think that went very well. Probably about 35 people showed up. Walked them through what we want to see in the applications, have not had any applications come in yet. Its about the same attendance as last year around 35-40 that is good. We would like to see growth but we are just happy to have people come out to the meeting. Vail, how many applications were there last year? Pena I think we had 10. Vail, so about a third of the people who came to the meeting? It wasn't all from attendees? Pena most likely was all from the attendees. Morton for the mini grants we only have two applications. Pena, we have no applications.

3. Historic Preservation Month Plan Update

Pena worked with the communications team to put out the call for nominations. Theres an email blast that went out that was for a list that Sharon had in my computer before. We have reached out to people who have applied in the past. We also put out a press release not sure if Neil put anything else online. We had a lot of different categories you could apply in last year. We stripped it down to just buildings and individuals or institutions this year. The applications are due the end of this month. Hibbard, Melissa made a very cool mock-up for our awards. Morton, I do see on Facebook the City of Kalamazoo has blasted it there to as of a couple of days ago. Hibbard for the rest of the commission, the judging rubric that she notes is a link if you want to look at those criteria that we are going to use to look at the applications. We will decide that for Aprils meeting. Vail, we have a date for the ceremony? Pena I think the 29th of May. Hibbard, we had the 27th that is a Wednesday that we had floated. I don't know if we confirmed that will KNAC. Pena, I will confirm that.

4. Historic Tours Report

Paduk, we are doing 2 tours: one at Mountain Home and the other at the National Register of Historic Places throughout the City of Kalamazoo. We met last week or the week before. We kind of solidified our list for the stops on the tour. Currently, we have 14 stops for Mountain Home cemetery because they are more focused on markers in the cemetery, how to identify them, which will work with what we were doing last year with the booklet. We currently have 5 stops for National Register Historic Places that I will share with the group. We are not going to hire outside contractors. The cemetery has already been done leaning on Dusty a lot. We think that it will be very doable for the five entries from the Nation Register of Historic Places is a much smaller tour. We will definitely be able to get that done amongst ourselves and save budget, making it easier to have more of a profit for the O'Connor fund.

F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

1. Election of Officers
Pena tonight is Fred and Melissas last meeting.

Hibbard I nominate Patrick for chair

Paduk 2nd

Vail chair

Vail I nominate Hibbard for vice chair

Morton 2nd

Hibbard vice chair

G. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Pena presented

H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Pena, thank you for your service on the board. Morton I have two questions one is about the membership. So with Melissa and Fres stepping down how does that affect the subcommittees? What does that mean for the subcommittees? I don't have the capacity to be in charge of two committees. I am assuming that Melissa can still hold on being the head of the tour committee is that correct? Melissa I fully intend on staying on for the rest of the year. Morton some of the buzz I saw on social media Harveys is gone do you know if some of the historical items in there were salvaged? Some discussion on why our committee didn't say anything. Pena, that building was not designated in any capacity in a historic way. I have no professional purview over that building because it was not locally designated. This board would not say anything thing about the demolition of a structure that would be the HDC if it were located in a local historic district. Vail have there been any updates on the water tower. Pena, no I will reach back out to Shipo again and let you know if I hear anything. Paduk, thank you guys for the opportunity. It's been really great being able to serve and look forward to carrying out the rest of the work for the rest of the year I am very grateful and I will be around. Hibbard, glad to have you when we did.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Hibbard moved to adjourn at 6:46

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.