

KALAMAZOO HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Agenda – Tuesday, May 19th, 2026

5:00 pm

241 W. South St. Kalamazoo, MI 49007

I. Call to Order: Mr. Kastner called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

II. Roll Call & Approval of Absences:

Katie Boertman- Present
Dana Underwood – Present
James Johnson-Present
Dan Kastner- Present
Kristi Breisach- Present
Nelson Nave- Present

All commissioners present

Mr. Pena read the disclaimer on record at 5:02 PM.

III. Approval of Agenda:

Motion made to approve agenda by Mr. Boertman with a 2nd by Mr. Nave. All commissioners approve.

IV. Approval of Minutes: April 21st, 2026

Motion made to approve the minutes by Mr. Johnson with a 2nd by Mr. Nave

V. Public Comment on non-agenda items: No guests and no public comments.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 703 S Park st

Year Built: 1900

**Alteration: Removal of deck,
Construction of new deck
Style: Colonial Revival
Historic District: South St- Vine
Area**

Mr. Mike Purwin is the owner and is looking to remove an existing deck and replace it with a new deck with a smaller footprint. Mr. Purwin wants to have a space for his tenants to use for grilling

and relaxing. Mr. Pena is unsure if the structure is original to the home based on maps and records. The current deck is in bad shape. The new size proposed does seem more appropriate. Mr. Purwin believes the porch has been painted in the past and has had stairs replaced. Mr. Pena does state that based on records the style of the home does show two different styles. If the deck does move forward, a future owner could remove the deck and build back the enclosed porch. The current porch is 4x6 and the new plan shows the new deck to be 9x6. Mr. Purwin does state that he would be willing to make the length short with the max length being 9 ft. Ms. Breisach wants to know what the bottom of the deck would look like, would be deck posts not skirting and the deck would be made from either cedar, redwood or treated lumber. Ms. Underwood makes a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the work described in the application to demo the existing porch and repair damage from demo with appropriate materials and replace it with a deck no greater than 6x9; the proposed work complies with the Secretary of the Interior standards 2, 6 and 9 with a second by Mr. Johnson. The motion passes with 4 voting yes and Mr. Nave and Ms. Breisach voting no.

B. 830 W Vine St

Year Built: 1875

**Alteration: Replacement of
Basement egress window**

Style: Italianate

**Historic District: South Street-
Vine Area**

The applicant wants to replace an egress window. The window is in the basement and is currently broken. The window is not visible from the street. Mr. Nelson is curious about whether someone can get out of the window and out of the hole and the homeowner says yes. The new window will have the same dimensions as the current window. The current window is not an original window. The current window is a vinyl window and is changing like to for like. Ms. Boertman makes a motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the work as described in the application; the proposed work complies with the Secretary of the Interior standards 9 and 10 with a second from Mr. Johnson. 4 commissioners approve with Mr. Nave voting no. Receives majority, so project does get approved.

VII. Action Item

1. HDC Commissioner Application Review

- Mark Dunham- Mr. Dunham introduced himself and gave a brief overview of himself. Mr. Dunham has had experience with the HDC himself from living in the Stuart Neighborhood. Mr. Dunham has used Sandborn Maps with his job as a librarian.
- Elijah Isch- Mr. Isch also introduced himself and gave the commission a brief overview of qualifications, job overview and answering commissions questions with example scenarios.

Ms. Underwood tables the review of the applicants, with a second from Mr. Johnson. All commissioners approve.

Motion by Mr. Johnson to resume discussion with a 2nd from Ms. Boertman. All commissioners approve.

Commissioners discuss applicants.

- Boh are good applicants
- Both live in Stuart Neighborhood
- Have experience renovating in Historic Districts and both are landlords
- Applicant good with public interaction

Ms. Underwood is recommending both applicants, Mr. Dunham and Mr. Isch, be recommended to the City Commissions to join the Historic District Commission. All commissioners approve.

VIII. Coordinator’s Report

- Review of Cases.
- Discussion regarding work that needs to take place on many Historic Houses and how this is monitored by other departments.
- Historic Preservation Awards of Merit

IX. Adjournment

Ms. Kastner adjourned the meeting at 6:46 PM.

Chairperson

Date

Historic Preservation Coordinator

Date

Recording secretary

Date