

Minutes

Historic Preservation Commission

City of Kalamazoo



Wednesday, June 10th, 2026

6:00 PM

City Commission Chambers at City Hall – 241 West South Street

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Called to order at 6:00 PM

Hibbard approved of the absence of Akina and Paduk

Harris 2nd

B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

Hibbard approved agenda

Edison 2nd

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Edison approved

Morton 2nd

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hello all -

I thought I was going to make it tomorrow, but while rehab is going really well, I'm having a small setback which keeps me from sitting comfortably. So, rather than making the trip to stand up for an hour+, I'll stay at home and make a few quick comments for tomorrow evening's public meeting record, under Item D "Public Comments."

1) I'd like to request that when an acronym is used on the meeting agenda or elsewhere in your documents, that it also be fully identified for the record following its first use.

Hence, Item F-1 under Discussion/Action Items on this evening's agenda, the term "FKHC" would be listed as "FKHC (Friends of Kalamazoo Historic Cemeteries.)" You can also do it the other way around by using the full title first and then adding the acronym following it. Thank you for considering this request.

2) On that same above-mentioned agenda item - F-1 under Discussion/Action items, the Friends of the Kalamazoo Historic Cemeteries request for a direct gift/mini-grant, I'd like to make a few comments from my perspective as the primary author of the subject grant program and co-founder of the Fund.

a) Although this request got off to a slightly discombobulated start, the end result in the document prepared for the meeting, along with what I expect will be a 3 minute presentation from Gary Swain, represents what I believe is a well-prepared proposal for a great project that meets the criteria, and which I hope you all will support.

b) Although it is NOT mentioned anywhere in the documentation, if this proposal is approved, it

provides a great vehicle for sharing information about the KHPC and what it does, the good work it supports and the role the O'Connor Fund plays in making it happen - which in turn has the potential to draw in new grant applicants and donors alike.

And so, although it is not currently required, I hope you will discuss this point with Gary at this evening's meeting, and request that the FKHC consider helping the KHPC spread the word about its work and the Fund by indicating the project is "Supported by the "Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission's O'Connor Fund Mini-grant Program" in all of its spoken and printed materials related to carrying out and completing the work described in the grant proposal, including promotional, registration, press releases, media interviews, signage etc. Asking your grant partners to do this on your behalf is one of the best ways we have to help get the word out, so I hope the FKHC will agree to assist the KHPC in this way.

Luis, will you please acknowledge that you've received this message and that it will be included for the record for tomorrow night's meeting? Thank you.

Thanks for listening and have a good meeting!
Pam

[Pam O'Connor / 500 Revel Run, Apt. 3030, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 / 269-342-4608 / \[phoc508@gmail.com\]\(mailto:phoc508@gmail.com\)](#)

[making time visible...](#)

E. REPORTS

1. Financial Report
Pena read report
2. O'Connor Fund Report
Pena read report
3. Preservation Month Report
Harris, at the bottom of the report, it gives information to kinda close out the subcommittee's work for this year. We had our Awards of Merit ceremony at the end of May, which was very well attended, and our two award winners felt very celebrated, and it was a great night. Pena, we had about 40 people attend, certainly the biggest group I have had. After talking with Sharon said this was the biggest group she has seen in a while. This is the beginning of a new age. The Video went on the Kalamazoo City page yesterday. Hibbard, will it be on the award page as well? Pena, I will send an email right now. Hibbard said Pam said to make a contact list.

F. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

1. FKHC Minigrant Proposal
2.

Pena, we have given grants before, but now we are looking at a mini-grant. This is not a gift. We have already gone through the part of the process where Gary Swain. He came to last month's meeting and gave a three-minute presentation to the Historic Preservation Commission. A KHPC member agreed to work on the application. Dusty, that was you with Gary. We are at the portion of the meeting

where we will review the form of a memo by Dusty and Gary for the Friends of Kalamazoo historic cemeteries mini-grant. Dusty, I am a little unclear about what I am to do. We have the memo we've reviewed it. Am I asking questions or voting? Will voting be the chair correct? Pena, no Vail, you can ask questions and make any comments that you might have about this at this time. Morton, I do believe in the text of the memo we addressed one of the concerns that were expressed in public comments. A lot of what the friends of Kalamazoo historic cemeteries are doing is constantly talking with the public and advancing knowledge. Vail, the next thing we need is a motion to award the mini-grant. Morton, we have quorum here, but am I allowed to participate in the vote? I don't see anything saying that my vote would not be allowed. Vail, if the commissioner who brings it should abstain from the vote. However, I don't want to be in a situation where we don't have enough to vote, and we don't have any stipulations on that. I don't see where this would constitute grounds for abstention from the vote, it is in writing; it's obvious that this person is in support of it. Vail, I am ok with each commissioner voting, Pena, even if Dusty doesn't vote, it reads if the majority of the KHPC members at that meeting agree. Hibbard, I move that the KHPC award \$5,000 as requested in the application to the Friends of Kalamazoo historic cemeteries from the O'Connor one fund to be used for the other purposes listed in the application during the subsequent year of the award. Morton, can we clarify the amount? Vail, yes. Hibbard is not \$5,000? Morton, no its \$2,500. Morton, are you willing to amend your motion to alter the amount? Hibbard yes. Harris 2nd the amended motion. Roll call vote unanimous.

2. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Pena presented

There was a joint meeting between the Grand Rapids Public History Roundtable and the Kalamazoo Public History Roundtable. Edison, I was there; it was the Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo Round Table and the Gun Lake Tribe. It was great to meet people Larry Bell Foundation Library. Crystal Burnett was there getting books categorized. Megan Daniels was also there. Pena, great job as well to Dusty and Gary on the application.

3. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Morton thanked Luis for helping with the mini-grant. The Association of Immigration Studies is coming to town in two weeks, roughly. There will be a cleaning at Riverside next Saturday.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Vail moved to adjourn at 6:38 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.