



HIGHLAND PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Robert B. Blackwell Municipal Building
12050 Woodward Avenue
Highland Park, Michigan 48203
313-252-0050 x257 Chairman F.Ross

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (HDC) MEETING Highland Park Fire Station, 25 Gerald (ZOOM) Monday, 23th August 2021 OFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER - 5:53PM

The meeting was hosted by Chair Zobel via Zoom and also called to order by Chair Zobel, roll call was performed by Secretary Harris

Commissioners Present: Anne Zobel - Chair, Malika Pryor - Vice Chair, Jeffrey Harris-Secretary, Commissioner Arthur Williams

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Art Rizzo, Commissioner Debbie Morrison

Other: none

Chair Zobel began this meeting by requesting a motion to approve the April, 2021 HDC Meeting Minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Vice Chair Pryor. The motion passed unanimously at 5:56PM.

REPORT FROM COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CED) DIRECTOR – 5:57PM

The CED Director was unable to attend this meeting due to working in Harper Woods this day.

Updates from the Chair in lieu of the CED Director are as follows:

Regarding the Ford Administration Building, Chair Zobel reports that Jim Breughman (chair of WA3) offered some updates. The repairs made to the windows of this structure were made by the potential buyer. However, according to the agreement the WA3 has made with the buyer, the buyer has an 18 month “due diligence” period to decide whether or not to purchase the property before the structure goes back on the market. Chair Zobel expressed to Mr. Breughman that she is concerned for the integrity of the property during this seemingly long due diligence period. She also offered Mr. Breughman some resources that would assist with protecting the property from further decay or damage.

Commissioner Williams ask the commission who owns the Ford Administration Building.

HIGHLAND PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Chair: Commissioner Anne Zobel
Vice Chair: Commissioner Malika Pryor
Secretary: Commissioner Jeffrey Harris

Commissioner Arthur Rizzo
Commissioner Debbie Morrison
Commissioner Arthur Williams

Secretary Harris and Chair Zobel explained to Commissioner Williams that the property is owned by WA3, and to a lesser extent, Highland Parks' TIFA. Chair Zobel believes City Councilperson Rodney Patrick is still a member of the WA3, and plans to contact him about this.

DEMOLITION BY NEGLECT – 6:08PM

Chair Zobel would like to revisit this topic soon and have a major conversation about it

EXPANSION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION – 6:08PM

Chair Zobel commented that she has not heard anything regarding the May 23rd Window Workshop since the day of the workshop. The commission offered their take on how the workshop went; everyone agreed it went very well and that the presenter was very effective and the attendees were all active participants. The commission would like to host additional workshops and presentations.

Vice Chair Pryor wondered how the commission can obtain more money, and if it can create its own website - specifically, how can we show more people that we exist? Chair Anne explained that the HDC does have a blurb on the city's website but that it is not updateable by the commissioners and doesn't provide much information. She agreed that it would be more nice to have something more official on the internet. The idea of creating a Facebook page was floated, but more consideration is required since the HDC is an appointed body representing the city and we must take care not to overstep any boundaries.

In other news, Mallory offered to help organize future events. The commission would like additional window workshops since the first workshop filled up fast and was greatly appreciated by the attendees. Chair Zobel also suggested a Tuck-Pointing Workshop since a huge majority of the housing stock in Highland Park will need to be tuck-pointed in the future if they do not need it now. Chair Zobel also agreed to send her contact for tuck-pointing to Commissioner Williams.

Vice Chair Pryor's husband was also floated as a potential workshop presenter as he is very familiar with a variety of home improvement topics.

Chair Zobel will follow up with Mallory to start planning on another event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - 6:28PM

No public attended this meeting either during the publicly or privately hosted Zoom meetings.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - 6:28PM

Secretary Harris asked if the commission or Mayor has identified a seventh member of the Commission. Chair Zobel, Vice Chair Pryor and Commissioner Williams agreed that one of the young women who attended the Window Workshop would be a great member of the commission. Chair Zobel noted that she mentioned to this woman that there was an opening in the commission.

Chair Zobel also commented that the HDC needed to send a thank you email to all of the attendees of the workshop. Secretary Harris offered to write this email once a contact list is provided.

Lastly, Chair Zobel identified three commissioners who need to have their terms extended: Vice Chair Pryor, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Morrison. Chair Zobel will be contacting Ty, the city's CED Director, regarding this item (she will also talk to him about having our next meeting in person and in an outdoor space).

ADJOURNMENT – 6:37PM

Meeting was adjourned at 6:37PM

- The next Historic District Commission will be held on September 26th, 2021.