

**KALAMAZOO HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**September 11, 2007  
Third Floor Conference Room  
241 W. South St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007**

**Members Present:** Norman Jung; Chris Wright; Katie Jacobs  
Linda Gentry Bennett; Claire Milne, Erin Seaverson

**Members Absent:** Josh Willson, excused

**City Staff:** Sharon Ferraro, Historic Preservation Coordinator

**City Commission:** none

**Call to Order**

Mr. Wright called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

**Approval of Absences**

**Ms. Bennett, supported by Mr. Jung, moved to excuse Josh Willson from the September 11th, 2007 HPC meeting. With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda**

Ms. Ferraro asked to have two items added to the agenda. Under Item IX.C. Add "Consideration of a historical marker for the Iannelli Fountain" and under Item X add Review tentative Historic District Study Committee Sites.

**Ms. Milne, supported by Mr. Jung, moved to approve the September 11, 2007 agenda as submitted. With a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.**

**Minutes**

Corrections:

Page 2 under under Action Items: KHPC retreat, the facilitators name is misspelled – change from "Levie" to "Levy". Last paragraph on page 2 last sentence change "as" to "at".

**Ms. Bennett, supported by Mr. Jung, moved to approve the August 14, 2007 minutes as amended. With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.**

### Introduction of Guests

Pam O'Connor – former commissioner, author of Kalamazoo: Lost and Found  
Western Michigan University Student, Ms. Ferraro's intern: Brian Chambers  
Audrey Seaverson – babe-in-arms

### Citizen Comments

Ms. O'Connor brought up an article about new staff at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts from the KIA newsletter. Karla Niehus lives in West Main Hill and her interests include working on her historic bungalow. Ms. O'Connor thinks we should keep an eye on her as a possible recruit for the HPC.

### Correspondence

None

### Financial Report

**City:** On track. In the financial report, pages 2 through 7, the "Budget year" is mislabeled 2006. The budget was approved in 2006 but these amounts refer to the 2007 budget year.

**O'Connor Fund:** Ms. Bennett has drafted the appeal letter and Ms. O'Connor has worked on a revision. Ms. O'Connor reports that she still has 130 prepaid donation envelopes from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation from last year and we can ask for an additional 100 for free this year. Next year's appeal may need to purchase more envelopes from the foundation for 50 cents each to augment the 100 free envelopes. This should be taken into account in budget planning for 2008. Ms. Ferraro offered to print the letters on the new CP&D printer if the commission supplies the paper. Envelopes will still need to go to a printer. Mr. Wright will contact Mr. Willson and set up the envelope stuffing at his place.

**Lost and Found Book Project:** There was one book sold at the West Main Hill annual Tennis tournament picnic. Barnes & Noble continue to be the biggest sellers and they buy the books from us at their "book-signing price" which means the HPC gets 80% of the sale price.

### Action Items/Discussion Items

- A. KHPC Retreat – The HPC retreat will be Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, possibly at the Park Club – it will be an all day event. Chris Wright and Katie Jacobs will work out details before the October 9<sup>th</sup> HPC meeting.

B. The Kalamazoo County Preservation Alliance is asking for assistance from the Historic Preservation Commission to apply for a grant from the Michigan Preservation Fund and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The four color brochure, "Where Place Prospers" will include details on re-development tools for historic commercial buildings downtown along with case studies. The finished brochure will be hand delivered or mailed to all downtown property owners. The KCPA has already received a \$1500 commitment from the HPC for the publication and is seeking a grant from the Michigan Preservation Fund to pay a consultant (Judith Fagin) to finish the editing and writing.

**Ms. Milne, supported by Ms. Jacobs, moved that the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation submit an application to the Michigan Historic Preservation Fund for the publication of "Where Place Prospers" in cooperation with the Kalamazoo County Preservation Alliance for a matching grant of \$1500. With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

C. Iannelli Fountain – Ms. Ferraro asked for a volunteer from the commission to work with Architect Nelson Nave on specifications for the proposed cover for the fountain. Ms. Jacobs enthusiastically volunteered. Erin Seaverson volunteered to be back up for the meetings.

Ms. Ferraro reported on the coring of the fountain that took place today preliminary to the petrographic analysis. She proposed that the commission consider budgeting funds for a historical marker, either State of Michigan or a non-official marker – for the fountain for 2008. The commission discussed the concept and preferred a State historical marker because the text and content is reviewed by a neutral third party for historic accuracy. Ideally the marker would be in place by the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original dedication of the fountain in June 2009. Ms. Milne suggested that if work begins to restore the fountain before the state marker is dedicated, that a temporary wooden sign be put up for informational purposes.

**Ms. Seaverson, supported by Ms. Bennett, moved that the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation explore placing a state historical marker in Bronson Park to interpret the fountain. With a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.**

D. Preliminary recommendations for the Historic District Study Committee for 2008. After some discussion, the commission decided to recommend the following areas or individual resources:

- a. The 100 block of East Michigan on the north side. Determined eligible for the National Register as part of the HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INTENSIVE LEVEL SURVEY: Phase V finished on May 31, 1989 by Mary Grace York and Lynne B. Weir
- b. The State Theater – 404 South Burdick - Determined eligible for the National Register in 1983 as part of a Multiple Site nomination but never listed.

- c. The Greenlawn-Panhandle addition to the West Main Hill local historic district. Intern Chris Gerrish has completed the research part of the historic district study committee report. Property owners in this area, tucked between the township and WMU have expressed interest in being included in the historic district.

Ms. Milne pointed out that there is serious interest from the part of West Main Hill that is in the township for learning more about local historic districts. Ms. Ferraro offered to speak at an informational meeting.

**Ms. Bennett, supported by Ms. Seaverson, moved that the coordinator prepare a preliminary proposal for the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission acting as a Historic District Study Committee to study the 100 Block of East Michigan – north side as an addition to the Haymarket Local Historic District, the State Theater as a single resource district and the Greenlawn area as an addition to the West Main Hill local historic district. With a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Ferraro will have the preliminary report available at the next HPC meeting on October 9.

### Committee Reports

The budget committee met before this meeting including Ms. Bennett and Ms. Ferraro. Mr. Willson did not attend. The committee began with the September Ending Working Capital amount of \$14,666 and subtracted known outstanding expenditures, such as the promotional fees paid to Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Houghton for Kalamazoo: Lost and Found, advertising for the book for the holiday season. Ms. Bennett and Ms. Ferraro would like to base the 2008 HPC Budget on \$11,000. The budget committee will meet again before the next HPC meeting.

### City Reports

Site Watch List is in the packet.

### Commissioner Comments

Mr. Jung asked about building codes for window size. Mr. Wright commented on the new marquee on East Kalamazoo on Shakespeare's.

### Citizen Comments

None

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**Mr. Jung, supported by Ms. Bennett moved to adjourn the HPC meeting at 8:50pm.  
With a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Adjournment 9:10 pm.

**Submitted by (Sharon Ferraro)**

**Reviewed by (Sharon Ferraro)**

**Approved by (Chris Wright)**