

Historic Resources Commission Minutes April 5, 2021

The first meeting of 2021 for the Historic Resources Commission was called to order in City Council Chambers at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 5. Those present included:

Kay Forster
Mary Hebert
Sherie Gekiere
Sherry Nelson
Diane Raab, Council Liaison
Noreen Keating via zoom
R.J. Archambo via zoom

Member Wendy Fleming did not attend.

Noreen Keating was designated as Chairperson; Mary Hebert as Vice Chairperson; and Sherry Nelson as Secretary.

Goals and Projects are yet to be determined. Mary Hebert suggested that Jim Conboy be invited to speak with the group about the drafting of the Historic Resources Ordinance, originally passed in 2002. Noreen Keating agreed to contact Conboy to see if he would be willing to meet with a "Study Group" to outline how the ordinance and early days of the commission might help determine goals and projects for the future. All members attending the meeting expressed an interest in hearing Conboy. It was suggested that Lois Ballard attend as well, as she has been active with the HRC for many years, and will also act as an advisor to the committee.

Mary Hebert has a list available of all properties throughout Cheboygan County that have an historic designation. The commission has power only to focus on city properties. Hebert will prepare a list of all properties or entities within the city that have historic designations.

Kay Forster has a list from the previous HRC that lists all city-wide properties that may be candidates for historic designations. She will furnish the list to the other commission members.

As many commission members do not know each other, brief introductions were done to include their background and interest in history. **Mary Hebert** is a former commission member and 5th generation Cheboyganite. She has done extensive community development. Hebert said her goal in purchasing historic buildings was to bring them back in to public use to benefit community development.

Kay Forster is a 4th generation Cheboygan resident. Her career was teaching Special Education. Forster grew up in the historic Secrets on Main building, which was

owned by her family. Forster is also the Board President for the History Center of Cheboygan County.

Sherie Gekiere works as a workers' comp. technical consultant. She is currently facilitating online training. Gekiere and her husband have lived in Cheboygan for 4 years, and have become active in the community. Gekiere is active in the Art Vision program. Also an artist, Gekiere donated a large Coast Guard Cutter painting to the fundraising auction that was formerly on display at Ottawa Art Park. She is also currently taking a course in grant writing.

Sherry Nelson has been vacationing in Cheboygan for 50 years, and living here permanently for more than 10. She founded Bring IT Cheboygan! a grass roots community volunteer organization that was instrumental in bringing the Michigan Main Street program to Cheboygan. She has been distressed to watch historic properties fall into disrepair and lie unused. Her goal is to put plans in place to maintain the remaining historic properties and get them back into community use.

R.J. Archambo is among a multi-generational line of Cheboyganites. Son of Patty and Art, he grew up on Black Lake. Archambo worked and lived in Chicago and was sidelined in Cheboygan when the pandemic shut down travel last year. He and his wife decided to stay in Cheboygan. Archambo works in investor relations and fundraising for the legal cannabis business. He and his wife enjoy living in downtown Cheboygan.

Diane Raab, a city councilwoman, is the liaison between the HRC and City Council. She has lived in Cheboygan full time since 2017. In her career, Raab was a psychotherapist in private practice and had multiple offices in the St. Claire Shores area downstate. Raab has become very active in the community, besides working on Mackinac Island at the Birkenstock shop. She is also the Rotary President and Vice Commodore of Cheboygan Yacht Club.

Noreen Keating is a long-time history buff and fundraiser. In working with a non profit agency downstate, she grew the budget from \$7,000 to \$8 million. Keating brought the Art Vision concept to Cheboygan to raise both the awareness and amount of public art in the city. Keating is an experienced grant writer, having gotten communities a lot of community development block grant money. Keating is also the Cheboygan County Community Foundation Vice President, and expressed hope that the HRC could work with the foundation and with Sharen Lange, president of the Cheboygan Economic Development Group.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55.

Sherry Nelson
Secretary