

Historic Resources Commission Minutes
September 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by chairman Noreen Keating. Those present included:

Noreen Keating
Mary Hebert
Wendy Fleming
Kay Forster
Sherie Gekiere
Sherry Nelson
City Council Liaison, Diane Raab
City Manager, Dan Sabolsky

Kay Forster moved to approve minutes from the August 2, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Sherie Gekiere. Motion carried.

Mary Hebert gave an update on the Certified Local Government application that was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office, SHPO. A revision of the Cheboygan Historic Preservation Ordinance was sent to Alan Higgins on Friday, September 10. We are waiting to hear if the changes made have brought the ordinance into compliance with state law. Hebert also pointed out examples of benefits the Certified Local Government (CLG) status has brought to other cities. City of Birmingham: received \$15,000 grant to hire a federally qualified historic preservation consultant to create comprehensive historic preservation design guidelines. City of Manistee: \$51,050 grant to hire a federally-qualified historic preservation consultant to complete facility and master plan analysis for the Ramsdell Theatre, owned by the city. City of Mason: \$116,950 grant to hire a contractor to complete rehabilitation work at the Mason Library, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

A discussion about Historic Districts followed. While some suggested that the entire Main Street area be included, others felt it would be more logical and easier to start small and limit the area to be included.

City Manager Sabolsky recommended that the commission have a clear goal first, and then develop a timeline for accomplishment. When asked what the goal of the commission is, Sherry Nelson suggested: As historic properties in Cheboygan are limited and in danger of being lost, the commission hopes to help locate and develop the tools for property owners to preserve these historic structures and work with them to ensure they will remain viable for public use in the future.

Sabolsky pointed out that there are many overlapping groups in the city that are acting independently and duplicating work such as the Planning and Zoning Commissions, and Main Street and City Council. He said that there should be a way that the groups should interact more and not duplicate efforts. Perhaps a charette would better define goals and would be

inclusive with currently overlapping groups. Noreen Keating agreed and said that perhaps MSU Extension could conduct a charette. Another idea would be to have groups include a representative from other groups, or commissions, to eliminate duplication of time and effort. Eliminating the overlap, said Sabolsky, would allow City Council to better allocate resources.

Board member comments: Sherie Gekiere suggested we adopt a mission statement so all commission members are aware of the goal to be achieved. Sherry Nelson will draft a mission statement and circulate it among commissioners for additional input.

Noreen Keating stated that it would be helpful in applying for the CLG designation to generate some publicity about its benefit to Cheboygan. As R.J. Archambo was tasked with contacting Boyne City, but could not attend the monthly commission meeting, perhaps he could write up his findings and circulate them to the commissioners. Otherwise, it would be most helpful to hear his report at the next commission meeting. Sherry Nelson agreed to write a press release regarding the city's application for the Certified Local Government designation.

Sherie Gekiere questioned Manager Sabolsky about how groups can avoid the "silo" system and work together to benefit the city. Sabolsky suggested that groups could send a representative to City Council to inform them what they were working on, and to get their endorsement.

Council Representative Raab said that two applications had been received to fill commissioner spots that are open due to the city resident requirement. The mayor will officially make the appointments at the Council meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2021. That leaves two final commissioner positions open. Applicants may download the form from the city website and turn it in at City Hall.

City Manager Sabolsky talked about city projects. First, the city purchased the property at Gordon Turner Park adjacent to the county marina. No plans for the property have been set currently. The city will have additional help with the arrival of a CEDAM Community Development Fellow, arriving in October. The fellow will be working in Cheboygan for fifteen months. Initially, the fellow was going to concentrate on port and industrial park promotion. However, work on establishing more attractive entrance corridors to the city may take precedence.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 4, 2021, 6:00, in Council Chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02.