

Historic Resources Commission Meeting
12/6/21, City Hall

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Vice Chairman Mary Hebert.

Commissioners present included:

Kay Forster
Mary Hebert
Keith Knecht
Katie Mallory
Sherry Nelson
Mali Thomas

Commissioners not present:

R.J. Archambo
Wendy Fleming

Also present, Council Liaison Diane Raab and City Manager Dan Sabolsky.

Motion to approve minutes from the November 1, 2021 meeting by Mary Hebert, second by Kay Forster. Motion carried.

Motion to elect Katie Mallory Chairman of the Historic Resources Commission by Kay Forster, seconded by Mali Thomas. Motion carried.

Revised Historic Resources Commission Ordinance update, Mary Hebert.

Proposed revised ordinance copies were distributed to all commissioners present. Mary Hebert reported that she and Sherry Nelson had a meeting with City Manager Sabolsky regarding the revised ordinance. Sabolsky noted that some changes were in order to add some language that would be in the best interest of the City. In addition, some reformatting and language changes would improve the ordinance. Sabolsky will make changes, and the revisions will be forwarded to SHPO for clearance by Alan Higgins. Once completed, the ordinance will be submitted to City Council in order to schedule a public hearing. Next, a public hearing will be held. Following the public hearing, City Council will vote on the adoption of the revised ordinance.

Certified Local Government Update (CLG), Mary Hebert. Hebert said that the proposed CLG status had benefits for 1— Private property owners, 2— Commercial property owners, and 3—Non-profits. She will prepare examples to send to commissioners that shows how CLG status benefits each of those categories. Hebert also recapped a conversation with Higgins (with SHPO) about possible periodicals for commissioners to consider, and national organizations that would be beneficial for commissioners to join. The National Alliance for Preservation was recommended, which features a meeting in Cincinnati in July, 2022. (Registration, April.) Higgins pointed to

Calumet, Michigan, as a good example of preservation. Before the next meeting in January. Hebert will follow up with Higgins to obtain the list of periodicals he suggests.

Hebert also noted that all new commissioners must submit a resume for inclusion in the CLG application. Please forward to Sherry Nelson at sherrynels@aol.com— prior to the January meeting.

Katie Malory suggested that youth be involved in preservation programs, as Millennials (born 1980-1995, 25-40 years old) and Gen Z (born 1997-2012, 9-24 years old) have expressed that historic preservation is important to them.

City Manager Sabolsky inquired who among the commissioners is in a local group that is recognized to have preservation expertise, as is required by the proposed ordinance. Keith Knecht, a recognized authority on Native Americans is one. Knecht travels throughout the state giving programs in schools and communities on Native American history with his company, Native Ways Traditional Arts, founded in 2006. Knecht also features a Native American Sugar Camp on property that he owns, and demonstrates the Native American process of making sugar. Another resource is Mali Thomas, who has design experience from working with architects on building renovations of historic properties. Per Alan Higgins, if there is no expert available to fulfill a commission post, a “good faith” effort in recruiting one should be shown. Sabolsky said that it may be possible to put a recruiting notice in the paper to seek preservation expertise in order to show “good faith.”

Board Comments. Kay Forster lamented the theft of ornaments from one of the decorated Main Street Christmas trees that featured family heirloom ornaments. Dan Sabolsky reported that an investigation is under way regarding the theft, with a possible reward to be offered for information leading to their return. Katie Mallory reported that Cheboygan is becoming recognized by outsiders as “The place to go, and be.”

The next meeting will be Monday, January 3, 2022, at 6:15 PM at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned 6:44 PM.

Sherry Nelson
HRC Secretary