

Flint Historic District Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 3, 2007
Committee of the Whole Room
3rd Floor, City of Flint Municipal Center
1103 South Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502
5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes April 5, 2007

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Leanne Barkus, Ryan Eashoo, Steve Heddy, James Rutherford, Nancy Sinclair, Dr. Mildred Smith, and Dale Suomela .

Absent: None

Guests: Greg Vanucci, Theresa McDonnell, Michael Freeman, Bernice Bennett, Erik Bengston, Jerry Preston, Chris Del Morone, Freeman Greer, R. L. Mitchell, Jack Minore, Lyn Griffen, Greg Rhinehart, David White, Dallas Dort, Philip Barnhard, Terry Gill, and others.

Staff: Carol Freeman, Program Specialist, Department of Community and Economic Development

I. Call to Order

Chairman Eashoo called the April 5, 2007 Historic District Commission meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Heddy made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes, as revised of the March 1, 2007 Historic District Commission. Commissioner Sinclair seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

III. Hearing From the Public

David White requested the Commission rescind the vote to allow the demolition of the Manning Court structures citing city ordinances that require the commission to use federal guidelines for historic preservation all say that demolition should occur only when there are no alternatives.

Jack Minore addressed the commission and requested it look at alternatives to demolition.

Chris Del Morone stated he felt that the demolition of the Manning Street houses was a plan with no planning and asked that the houses be left where they are.

Rhina Griffin stated that while she is proud of the Flint Cultural Center that the Manning Street houses add another dimension to the complex that gives the neighborhood character and asked the commission rescind its vote on the demolition of the homes.

Greg Rhinehard stated that the commission has a responsibility for due diligence when making decisions. He also addressed the question of safety and that his 71 year old mother regularly walks to the cultural center without concern.

Dallas Dort commented on his family's sincerity in wanting to do the right thing for Flint and that over the months there have been many alternatives reviewed but feel that the demolition is the best solution for the cultural center and the city.

Eric Bengston stated he is a resident of one of the Manning Street houses and was reassured that his investment in the house was safe only to find out two weeks later that he lived in one of the houses that would be demolished.

Philip Barnhard who is a student at the Institute of Music, Vice President of the Carriage Town Neighborhood Association, and Friends of Art expressed his opinion that the demolitions are not the right thing to do and questioned how fully the other options have been investigated.

Theresa McDonnell asked that the commission consider what the number of citizen has who have come forward have said.

Tegan Deanglis, a graduate student in historic preservation at Eastern Michigan University, that she believes that Manning Street is a wonderful resource for the City of Flint and that the houses give more to the cultural center than a parking lot would.

IV. PLAN REVIEW

221 W. First Avenue - A request from Ryan Hughes for a roof tear off and replacement using dimensional shingles with ice/water shield was presented to the commission. A motion to approve the roof replacement was made by Commissioner Sinclair was seconded by Commissioner Rutherford. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Barkus, Heddy, Rutherford, Sinclair, Smith, and Suomela voting yes. Commissioner Eashoo abstained.

Motion Passed.

614/616 Mason Street – A request from Richard G. Bennett to remove the aluminum/glass enclosure on entire front porch, 2 awnings on the second floor in the front of the property, repair of porch pillars, remove aluminum storm windows and replace with wood was presented to the commission. Discussion followed. The commission requested that Mr. Bennett return to the commission in the event that the repair of the porch pillars becomes a replacement instead. A motion to approve the request as presented by Commissioner Barkus was seconded by Commissioner Rutherford. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes.

Motion Passed.

604-606 East Second Street – A request from David Francis Construction on behalf of Raymond and Doris Brandt to remove existing roof shingles, repair fascia, and install a new roof to manufacturer specs with ice and water shield. A motion to approve the request as presented by Commissioner Heddy was seconded by Commissioner Eashoo. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes.

Motion Passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Heddy made a motion to delay the election of officers until the next meeting election of Officers. Commissioner Sinclair seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Barkus, Heddy, Rutherford, Sinclair, Smith and Suomela voting yes. Commissioner Eashoo voting no stating his opinion that the commission needs to follow the by laws.

Motion Passed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

720 – 726 Ann Arbor – Stockton House

Commissioner Sinclair motioned for the approval of a resolution creating a study committee to establish Stockton House as a historic resource. Commission Somalia seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes.

Motion Passed.

Presentation

NJB Associates represented by Terry Gill presented – Alternatives to preserve Manning Court.

Commissioner Sinclair stated that the Historic District has not approved moving of the structures, or parking, and that there are viable alternatives and motioned to rescind the pervious action that allows the demolition of the structures located on Manning Court because there are viable alternatives was made by Commissioner Sinclair. Commissioner Barkus seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner's Sinclair and Barkus voting yes, and Commissioner's Eashoo, Rutherford, Smith, and Suomela voting no. Commissioner Heddy abstained.

Motion Failed.

VII. Adjournment

8:00 p.m.