

Historic Preservation Commission
June 17, 2024
City Hall, Edward & Martha Berry Conference Room

Attendance:

Members – Bill Walker, Mark Snider, Mary Anne Reeves, Meghan Jennings, Tim Anderson, and Richard Vedder

Guests – None.

Absent – Cyrus Moore and John Valentour

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** – Mary Anne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.
2. **Disposition of Minutes** from March 11, April 15 and May 13, 2024 meetings.
 - Richard motioned to approve the March, April and May minutes
 - Tim seconded the motion.
 - All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes.
3. **Old Business**
 - Mansfield House Update
 - Meghan updated the Commission that the city would like to utilize the same architect that is currently working on the Armory project as the architect for updating the Mansfield House. She also reported that final designs and provided amenities for the Mansfield House will be determined once a future user is established.
 - Meghan reported that the Visitor's Bureau is going to be relocating.
 - Historic Preservation Brochure
 - Meghan presented the updated brochure for review and asked the Commission to review and approve. She reported that she can move forward with purchasing new brochures from Minuteman Press once the design is approved.
 - Mark shared concerns about having "established in 2013" on the cover as it could make people think the city itself was established that year.
 - Commission discussed the reason for having that language on the cover and whether removing that language from the cover was best. The Commission decided to have Meghan make the final call and move forward with ordering brochures.
 - Presbyterian Church
 - Bill inquired about an update on the project.
 - The Commission discussed finalizing the wording. Mary Anne reported that she will share the final language with the Commission so that Andrew Chiki can move forward with ordering the plaque.
4. **New Business**
 - Ohio History Connection's Ohio Open Doors Event Discussion
 - Meghan announced the City's ideas of hosting a construction tour of the Armory project. She also shared that the Southeast History Center and Mt. Zion Black Cultural Center (MZBCC) are interested in hosting events. There is potential to coordinate efforts and host a Heritage Square-based event. Meghan then asked the Commission for other event ideas.
 - Mark asked about old log cabin on Richland Ave, located across Shafer Street from Ohio University's Convocation Center.

- Tim reported that since it is a university building, the event would have to get approval from OU.
- Mary Anne mentioned the Court House and the Berry House.
- Meghan mentioned that the Commission could host an event themselves.
 - The Commission discussed hosting a tour of the Court House and even the Presbyterian Church. Potentially the event could be tied into the revealing of the historic plaque for the Church.
- Richard asked if the Historic Preservation Commission should have more involvement with all of the investments that are going into uptown currently (Armory, Mt. Zion, History Center, etc.).
 - Tim mentioned that the History Center has been talking about how to reinvigorate the relationships between the entities uptown.
- Richard mentioned that there is an upcoming significant financial donation for a statue of Manasseh Cutler. He also mentioned that the university is also installing a statue of a bobcat on June 29th at the back of Baker Center.
- Mark asked about how Commission could incentivize historic-sensitive renovations/investments like a minor tax abatement incentive that a property owner could apply for with the Commission's approval even though the property may be outside of the Commission's uptown district.
 - Bill stated that the Commission could ask Lisa Eliason about possibilities.
 - The Commission discussed that they would have to work with City, County, and other involved entities in order to establish this type of program.
 - Meghan stated that she would ask Lisa about it.

5. Announcements

- Meghan passed out a handout for the Juneteenth Celebration at MZBCC. She said that they will be doing an unveiling of an art installation for the building's historic rose window.
- Meghan reported that Andrew Chiki has found a repair person to work on the Ellis Mausoleum. Meghan reported that Andrew will move forward with establishing a scope of work and then getting a quote.
- Meghan reported that the City Hall Bell was reinstalled and restored over the past week and a half. She also stated that the broken weathervane was removed today and fixed by City's maintenance staff to be reinstalled soon.
- Mary Anne announced that the next scheduled meeting is July 8, 2024.
 - Tim stated that he will not be at the July meeting.
 - Richard mentioned that he will have family in that week but that he should be able to attend.

6. Adjourn

- Richard motioned to adjourn at 6:16 p.m.
 - Bill seconded the motion.
- All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes.