

Historic Preservation Commission
August 12, 2024
City Hall, Edward & Martha Berry Conference Room

Attendance:

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

Guests – None.

Absent – Cyrus Moore, John Valentour

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** – Mary Anne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.
2. **Disposition of Minutes** from July 8 meeting.
 - Richard motioned to approve the July minutes.
 - Bill seconded the motion.
 - All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed.
3. **Old Business**
 - Mansfield House
 - Bill asked for any updates.
 - Meghan reported that the only update she had heard was that the Visitor's Bureau is moving out.
 - Bill shared a photo of a historical marker plaque and asked if any of the members knew whether it was inside the structure or outside. He asked if it's not located on the property, if Meghan could determine where it was located.
 - Meghan replied that she would inquire with City Staff.
 - Lostro Building
 - Bill and Richard shared that a lot of work is now going on in the interior of the structure.
 - Bill reported that the property is forming a PACE district.
 - Meghan reported that PACE districts are a tax incentive program through the State for private companies but it needs the City to formally allow and create the district. The money does not involve the City.
 - Mary Anne questioned how Historic Preservation should be involved. She questioned the ongoing construction on the exterior, e.g. filling in holes under the sidewalk.
 - Bill asked for a formal update on the Lostro and its progress.
 - Meghan stated she could ask Andy Stone or Andrew Chiki to attend a meeting or compile a report.
 - Presbyterian Church Plaque
 - Meghan shared the color options from the landmark company for the plaque.
 - The Commission shared their favor of the brown/bronze color option.
 - Meghan reported she will move forward with purchasing and will update the Commission on shipping so that a ceremony can be scheduled, if desired.
 - Mary Anne stated the Commission can notify the church's administration when the plaque is to be delivered as well.
 - Ohio History Connection's Ohio Open Doors Event
 - Meghan shared that the City has partnered with Mount Zion Black Cultural Center and the Southeast Ohio History Center to host a tour of Heritage Square on September 7, 2024. She reported that the tour will include a total of 5 stops; 1)

Mount Zion, 2) the City Armory, 3) the historic Hotel Berry site, 4) City Hall, and 5) Southeast Ohio History Center. She stated that there will be three tours offered at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm. She also stated that there will be tickets for each tour available online, which are free. She reported that marketing materials will be going out soon.

4. New Business

- 19 W. Washington Street
 - The applicant did not attend the meeting.
 - The Commission stated that they did not have any issues with the application and were in favor.
 - Tim motioned to approve the application to install a fabric awning over the front window at 19 W. Washington Street.
 - Mark seconded the motion.
 - All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.
- Proposed letter to Ohio University (Bill Walker)
 - Bill suggested a letter to the Ohio University's President, as well that he would be willing to give a presentation to City Council, to update both groups on the Historic Preservation Commission's existence and goals.
 - Bill then asked Tim if he had any information on ongoing improvement projects around campus. Bill said that he is interested in talking with the University President about the existence of the Historic Preservation Commission.
 - Richard noted that she should be introduced to the Commission and that she may be interested in working with the Commission. Stated that if she is unable to attend a meeting, maybe the Commission could meet for a dinner or small gathering.
 - Tim stated it may take some time for her to fit the Commission into her schedule, but that the wait would be worth it.
 - Meghan stated that if she can't attend a meeting, a scheduled lunch may be considered a public meeting and would require minutes and advertising.
 - Mary Anne stated that she would call the President's office and request a meeting.
- Tax Abatement (Bill Walker)
 - Bill and Mark reported that next steps will be to meet with the County Commissioners about a tax abatement program.
 - Mark shared that the goal is to offer incentives for improvements to historic properties outside of the uptown historic district. Mark said the next step will be scheduling a meeting with the County Commissioners and that they meet every Tuesday from 9am – 11am. The Historic Preservation Commission could present the general idea of the abatement program to the Commissioners.
 - Mary Anne stated that she would call the Commissioners about getting on the agenda.
- Discuss possible presentation to City Council (Bill Walker)
 - Bill stated that he would also be interested in Mary Anne giving a presentation to City Council, akin to an annual report.

5. Announcements

- Richard announced that there is some money for a statue of Manasseh Cutler by Zanesville sculptor, Alan Cottrill. He reports that the discussion of the statue is on-going, and that University has concerns about the statue being debased and isn't the direction they want to go in.

- Mark added that this item would be a good discussion item for the Commission's future meeting with the University President.
- Richard mentioned that he has concerns about attendance issues from some Commission members.
 - Tim stated attendance requirements should be included in the by-laws.
 - Mark stated that Ohio Revised Code may allow for virtual attendance of meetings, even if those virtual members are not legally able to vote. Virtual attenders will also not count towards quorum.
 - Meghan stated she would look into the minutes, track attendance, and also look into the by-laws and any ORC code about virtually attending meetings.
- Bill stated that his understanding is that the City has not yet honored Paul Logue in a formal capacity.
 - The Commission discussed the potential of planting a tree with a plaque in his honor.
- Mary Anne announced that the next scheduled meeting is September 9, 2024.

6. Adjourn

- Richard motioned to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.
 - Mary Anne seconded the motion.
- All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed.