

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Athens City Hall, First Floor Conference Room
Monday December 9, 2013

A regular meeting of the Athens City Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission was held in the first floor conference room at City Hall at 5:37 PM on December 9, 2013.

1. Call to Order

Mary Anne Reeves called the regular meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Members present were Sarie Landers, Harry Wyatt, Joanne Prisley, and Mary Anne Reeves. Cyrus Moore, Guy Phillips, and Keith Chapman were absent. Guests present were Michele Papai and Betty Hollow.

2. Disposition of Minutes

Joanne moved to approve the minutes from November 11, 2013. Sarie seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the minutes.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 13, 2013 at 5:30 PM at City Hall, front conference room.

4. New Business

a. Mount Zion Church—Michele Papai introduced herself to the commission. Michele represents the council ward where Mt. Zion Church is located. The church is located at the corner of Carpenter and Congress Streets in Athens. Mt. Zion is a nationally registered historic building and has played an important role in the history of African Americans in Athens and at Ohio University. The church has been in disrepair and has been deteriorating for several years. The stained glass triptych on the east elevation has been blown out and the building is open to the elements. There is no HVAC currently working or available for the building. The building has been secured from vandals etc. Several former members of the church have filed documents with the Ohio secretary of state's office in order claim the building. Board members include Henry Woods, Ada Adams, and Ron Luce. The Berry family left the building to the congregation but since there hasn't been a congregation for several years the ownership of the church isn't clear from a legal standpoint. The legal issue of ownership must be resolved before moving forward with repairs, rehabilitation, or restoration. Mary Anne recommended that they look at OU archives for WPA and Mt. Zion records. Mary Anne asked if the city could assist with a tarp over the window. The commission is interested in offering support to assist with this matter and will write a letter of support for getting immediate issues resolved. Sarie motioned and Harry seconded. All voted in favor. Paul will help with drafting the letter before this Friday.

b. Betty Hollow introduced herself to the commission. Betty has been a member of the near east side neighborhood association. Neighborhood residents organized to do historical house tours of East State Street and Elmwood for several years and this led to preservation and registry efforts. 67 homes

contribute to the district. Betty thinks that many homeowners are not aware that they are in the district or that their homes are registered.

The commission discussed the need for signage to recognize the district and encourage homeowners to purchase signage for their homes. Ed Baum may have some funds remaining from the neighborhood association. The blue sign in East State to route drivers uptown should also be replaced. Property owners should get a pamphlet to let them know that they are in the register and they can buy signage. Mary Anne is aware of some sign companies that do this type of signage and will share some options with the commission. The commission will make a recommendation to the city administration for a signage standard.

5. Old Business

- a. Commission changes are moving forward at Council as requested and are on 3rd reading.
- b. CLG update— Paul is working on this and expects it to be complete within a week. Sarie has agreed to help with this on Friday. Joanne gave a resume. Cyrus has emailed one to Paul. Application must be submitted by January 1.
- c. Heritage Ohio membership—this has been requested to Mayor Wiehl for 2014.
- d. Paul's intern Megan is working in the virtual tour. Cyrus has given her the research he has done.

6. Adjournment

Mary Anne motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.