

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission
Minutes
Athens City Hall, First Floor Conference Room
Monday, May 18, 2015

1. Call to Order—Mary Anne called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present include Mary Anne Reeves, Sarie Landers, Guy Philips, Joanne Prisley, Cyrus Moore, and Ann Fidler. Keith Chapman was absent. Quorum was established. Tom O’Grady, executive director of the Athens County Historical Society was a guest.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Guy moved to accept the April minutes. Joanne seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

3. Next Meeting

June 8, 2015 at 5:30 PM—Joanne may not be present.

4. New Business

a. Tom O’Grady regarding Asylum event on June 7 from 10-4 at the Ridges auditorium. The event will include a tour, numerous presentations on the history of the asylum and current planning status for the campus. Presenters include author Katherine Ziff, Bob Loversidge from Schooley Caldwell, Shawna Bolin and Joe Shields from OU. Lunch will be provided. Tom would like the commission to staff a table and provide information to the public if possible. This may be the first of a series on the asylum or may be redone when OU is in regular session. Guy suggested we provide copies of the legislation, some basic materials, photographs, relevant sections of the comprehensive plan, CLG materials, Armory etc. Paul will be on vacation but can provide resources. Cyrus and Mary Anne can help with this. Guy made a motion to assist with this event. Joanne seconded. All voted in favor.

Tom is working with others to compile information on local architects of significant properties in Athens. He is interested in working with the commission to expand this project. He is also working with Ohio History Connection on scanning and digitizing some archived copies of the Athens Journal newspaper from the late 1800s.

5. Old Business

a. Mount Zion Church update—Henry Woods emailed update. Their committee is working with the state attorney general’s office on next steps.

b. Union Street fire—the city BZA approved a series of variances. Redevelopment of the strip will likely begin this summer. The Union Bar site will not be utilizing historic tax credits.

c. Armory—the market and use study RFQ has been posted. The deadline for interested applicants is June 2. Paul will be presenting to the Athens County EDC regarding brownfield funding.

Joanne mentioned that Keith Andrews may know more about this from his SEPTA work prior to working at the AMHA.

d. Historic Preservation inventory—Guy's office manager is interested in helping. Sandy Heck 592-LINK. Cyrus is interested too.

e. OU president's house—Joanne asked if anything is being done regarding the bats. Some members of the commission expressed the desire for the Park Place residence to remain the home of the president. Commission discussed drafting letter that was tabled at the April meeting. Cyrus suggested drafting on the history of the home and the significance of the president living there. This is tabled for another meeting.

f. Commission membership—Sarie is stepping down from the commission due to constraints on time with work and other issues. The commission expressed gratitude for her work. The commission asked her to provide some possible replacements if she is aware of anyone.

Mayor Wiehl is reappointing Joanne to the commission for a full term. Her appointment was set to end in June.

g. Miscellaneous—Mary Anne provided some b&w photos from her records to the city. Joanne shared an editorial in the NY Times about the 50th anniversary of NYC's landmarks legislation.

6. Adjournment

Guy moved to adjourn the meeting. Cyrus seconded the motion. All voted in favor.