

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission
MINUTES
Athens City Hall, First Floor Conference Room
December 11, 2017, 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order—Commission chairman Keith Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Commission members present included Mr. Chapman, Pam Callahan, Cyrus Moore, Guy Philips, John Valentour, and Mary Anne Reeves. There is one vacancy on the commission. Quorum was established. Paul Logue represented the administration and recorded minutes. Guests included Aaron Atkins, Franklyn Charles, Laura Harbert Allen, Art Cromwell, Burr Beard, and Ron Luce.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Mr. Philips made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted to the commission. Ms. Callahan seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of approval. The motion was approved.

3. Next Meeting—January 8, 2018

5. New Business

a. Joanne Prisley—Commission member Joanne Prisley recently passed away. She was a tireless advocate for historic preservation and many other civic affairs in her many years in Athens. The commission discussed manners to honor her including establishing an award in her name. Ms. Reeves mentioned that the Athens County Foundation is accepting nominations for the Athens Woman of the Year. Commission members will discuss this in more detail in 2018. The commission briefly discussed the need to appoint a new commission member. Guy suggested considering someone in the building trades. Mr. Logue will communicate with Mayor Patterson regarding filling Ms. Prisley's seat on the commission.

b. Art Cromwell—historic buildings documentaries project—Mr. Cromwell introduced himself to the commission. He is an Associate Professor and Director of Studies for the Public Media Masters program at Ohio University. He is working on a documentary project on the Ridges Asylum and has a course on digital archives in partnership with the Mann Center at Alden and the Southeast Ohio Historical Society. Mr. Beard has done a documentary on the Millfield Coal Mine disaster. Doug McCabe is helping with research on the Ridges and they will do an architectural portrait of the Asylum. Mr. Cromwell is looking for ideas for other buildings in Athens that could be done. Paul met with Art last week and they discussed doing a brief film on the Armory or a montage of Court Street. Mr. Cromwell is interested in working with the commission and may need some assistance with research and contacts. They are working with the Mt. Zion church already. Pam discussed the scope of a historic district in the city and some long term preservation efforts of uptown. Paul will follow up with Mr. Cromwell regarding moving forward with a project.

c. Mt. Zion Baptist Church Preservation Society—Ron Luce introduced himself to the commission. He is on the board for the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Preservation Society. The society is a 501c3 and owns the

church. The group formed about 5 years ago with the intent of saving the building. The society has about 100 paid members. They are working with RVC Architects to make plans and get repair and renovation cost estimates. Primary goals are to restore the building to its historic state, create a repository for African American history in southeast Ohio, and provide space for community services and events. They are looking for funding to advance goals. Immediate needs are new roof, basement floor, mold and mildew. The commission expressed support for this work and asked Ron and the other board members to provide updates on progress and to contact for any needs.

4. Old Business

a. Commission goals/action items discussion—John provided a draft map of a city district. The commissioners discussed the requirements in city code regarding the establishments of local districts and landmarks.

b. Armory historic marker—Cyrus is working with Ohio History Connection regarding the final language. Paul is hoping to have this invoiced in 2017 with installation in 2018.

6. Announcements and Updates

Council president Chris Knisely discussed with Mary Anne the idea of creating a walking tour of Athens.

7. Adjournment

With all agenda items addressed and no further business Guy motioned to adjourn the meeting 7:05 PM. Pam seconded the motion. All commission members voted in favor of adjournment.