



Andy Schor  
Mayor

**LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**August 23, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Neighborhood Empowerment Center**  
**600 W Maple Street, Lansing, MI**

**MINUTES – *Approved 5/12/2025***

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Skillings called the meeting to order at 5:28 pm.
  - a. Present: James Bell, Jacklyn Lillis-Warwick, Cassandra Nelson, Carol Skillings, Sam Troutman
  - b. Absent:
  - c. Staff: Andrew Fedewa, Stephen Bezold

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approved by unanimous consent.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS** – None

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None

5. **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- a. Minutes for Approval – August 12, 2024. Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

- b. Eastern High School Study Commission Resolution

Councilmember Ryan Kost addressed the Historic District Commission, stating his belief that the resolution to establish a historic district study committee for Former Eastern High School would not receive enough votes at City Council to proceed.

Ms. Nelson stated her support for the request to study old Eastern High School as a historic resource.

Mr. Bell stated the Historic District Commission's purpose is to recognize and protect resources based on their historical significance, rather than their land use or community impact.

Mr. Fedewa described the processes of submitting a resolution to Council to create a Historic District Study Committee with and without the goal of creating a local Historic District.

Ms. Skillings stated her support to pursue a study of the old Eastern High School building, even if it is ultimately not established as a local historic district.

Mr. Bell agreed with documenting historic resources and significance of the building's exterior as well as the interior while referring to UM Health – Sparrow's previous statements about protecting notable materials.

Ms. Skillings spoke on the University of Michigan's preservation work with their Ann Arbor campus and buildings in Detroit.

Ms. Skillings and Mr. Bell asked for support in requesting a study committee for sake of

documenting the building and to note what is worth being preserved, like architectural elements, fixtures, etc.

Mr. Fedewa stated that a study committee request rather than a resolution may be less antagonistic to the property owner.

Ms. Nelson stated her support for original plan to submit a resolution.

The Commission members reviewed the draft resolution requesting the establishment of a historic district study committee.

The Commission members agreed with most of the drafted language and recommended edits, including:

- The impact on the community through the communications received during any project concerning Eastern High School.
- That the community expressed support for this measure, the previous meetings, and had sent in messages of support.
- Remove portion of study committee member selection.
- Note the sense of place that sites like this represent and the potential to include, or at least document, the historic context of the site.

Ms. Lillis-Warwick made a motion, seconded by Ms. Nelson, to nominate Ms. Troutman and Mr. Bell as Ad Hoc Committee members in drafting a final resolution with city staff. On a voice-vote the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Skillings opened the public hearing.

Linda Appling, Third Ward, spoke in opposition of the resolution to establish a Historic District Study Committee.

[Name not recorded], spoke in support of the resolution to establish a Historic District Study Committee, concerned with environmental impact of demolition/construction.

Jason Muenchen, spoke in support the resolution to establish a Historic District Study Committee, noting the amount of available space within the Sparrow campus.

Mandy Bolter, University of Michigan Medicine Director of Government Relations, spoke in opposition of the resolution to establish a Historic District Study Committee, stating UM Health – Sparrow’s future campus plan.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak Ms. Skillings closed the public comments.

## **7. STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Following public comments, Ms. Skillings asked that a portion detailing the typical development timeline in a case like this be added to the resolution.

8.     **PRESENTATIONS** – None
9.     **OTHER BUSINESS** – None
10.    **PENDING ITEMS** – None
11.    **ADJOURNMENT** – 6:16 p.m.