



Andy Schor, Mayor

CITY OF LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

316 N. CAPITOL AVENUE • LANSING, MI 48933-1236 • (517) 483-4066 • FAX: (517) 483-6036

PLANNING OFFICE 316 N. CAPITOL AVE., SUITE D-1

Minutes – *Approved 6/14/21* **Lansing Historic District Commission** **Monday, April 12, 2020** **Virtual Meeting**

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Sonnenberg called the meeting to order at 5:36p.m.

a. Introductions and Roll Call:

Present: Heather Goupil (remotely from Lansing, MI), Curtis Sonnenberg (remotely from Lansing, MI), James Bell (remotely from Lansing, MI), Carol Skillings (remotely from Lansing, MI), Sam Troutman (remotely from Lansing, MI), Cassandra Nelson (remotely from Lansing, MI), Jim McClurken (remotely from Lansing, MI), Jacklyn Lillis-Warwick (remotely from Lansing, MI)

Absences: Rob Gibb (excused)

Staff Present: Andy Fedewa, Planner

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Approved by unanimous consent.

3. COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION

- a. Minutes for Approval – February 8, 2020 meeting. Approved by unanimous consent.
- b. 2020 SHPO – CLG Annual Report – Mr. Fedewa reviewed the Annual Report that the City completes for the Certified Local Government Program by the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office. Mr. Fedewa stated that some of the goals for 2020 were not completed due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Outreach to inform residents about Lansing history and preservation is a major goal for staff and this goal will be carried over for 2021. Commission members noted some corrections to the HDC member section.
- c. Self-Assessment Training Needs Survey – Mr. Fedewa said that public boards and commissions member training is a best practice for the Redevelopment Ready Communities program that the City is a part of with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. HDC members were encouraged to return the survey and request any training handbook or by-laws materials they may need.
- d. 2021 CLG Grant Ideas – Mr. Fedewa stated that staff is still leaning toward applying for a CLG grant to assist the rehabilitation work of the Moores Park Natatorium (Pool). The assessment of work needed was recently completed and it

detailed two courses of action that would require around \$2.7-\$4.8 million or \$6.3m. Staff is open to other ideas such as a new professionally administered survey since the Natatorium rehab project is still in the very early states.

- e. Potential Survey of the Westside Neighborhood(s) – Mr. Bell detailed some of the research he has conducted on the Espanore farm, Governor Osborn house, local architects, and the Warren Holmes Company. The Commission discussed the process for starting a committee for a new local historic district, but preferred planning to help educate neighbors about the history of their homes and local history of the area.

Ms. Skillings reviewed some of what she went through with the local historic district listing process and recommended that the Historic District Commission explore a State Register listing for a westside neighborhood. Commission members agreed that the greater Westside neighborhood may be too large for a listing and that a more concentrated area of the Espanore and/or Westmoreland ‘subdivisions’ could be easier sections to survey and study.

Ms. Nelson voiced support for an approach to educate and celebrate the area, and possibly explore a national or state listing. Ms. Goupil stated the group could explore tactics with the Capital Area District Library – Local History Room to celebrate the area and provide educational support.

- f. Outreach to Local Historic Districts – Mr. Fedewa informed Commission members that the City will be redesigning its website so he will be overhauling how local history information is presented and will be working on new maps and visual materials.

Ms. Goupil stated that CADL – Local History Room is an option for educational outreach, but it is still unknown when the libraries will open back up fully because of the on-going pandemic.

- 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None
- 7. STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS – Commission members discussed the public listserv email address for the Commission on the City website. It was decided that City staff should be the one to respond to questions and discuss any issues with the Commission.
- 8. PRESENTATIONS – None
- 9. OTHER BUSINESS – None
- 10. PENDING ITEMS – None
- 11. ADJOURNMENT was at 6:40 p.m.