



PLANNING DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

MINUTES: HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)
Meeting of January 10, 2023
City of Bowling Green Administrative Services Building
304 North Church Street, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Members Present: Geoffrey Howes, Wil Roudebush, John Sampen, Christina Tracy

Members Absent: Chris Mowen

Staff Member Present: Heather Sayler

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 22, 2022, meeting were approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3: ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Next Meeting Date – February 28, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #4: LOCAL DESIGNATIONS

A. University Hall (at Bowling Green State University) - Signage

2 members will meet with Laura Moore, head of donor relations.

B. Wood County Courthouse and (former) Jail – Building Inventory

Mowen has provided more architectural details. Sayler will collate and edit the inventory, which will be placed in our records with the Memorandum of Understanding with the County.

C. 328 East Court Street (update)

The ordinance was passed by Council. Commission signatures needed on document to be sent to the property owner as a courtesy.

D. Boom Town District (strategic plan goal)

Sampen consulted with Nathan Bevil (Community Planning and Preservation Manager, Ohio History Connection) on how to conduct a written survey. Sampen quoted Ordinance 158.06.b(1).2: "The Commission shall conduct a written survey ... by certified mail of all Owner(s) of Property within a proposed Historic District and include the results of the Survey in its written recommendation to City Council."

The Commission discussed starting with North Maple as a historic district for local designation. Survey would be sent by certified mail from the Planning Department to residential (and possibly business) addresses within a penciled-in border. Sampen and Roudebush inspected the two blocks between West Wooster Street and Conneaut Avenue and considered whether some business buildings might also be considered historic. (Long Cleaners? City Water/Sewer Division?)

Sayler noted the frequent problem of which comes first, the survey or the building inventories. Roudebush suggested surveying the properties whose owners have agreed to the designation. Howes will draft a letter addressing what the designation means and what the owners' obligations are. Not much detail is needed. Sayler and City Attorney can assist. Statement of support plus signature would seem best. Sampen will email the commission

members for suggestions. Saylor suggested a separate informational flyer addressing “myths,” etc., for example, the difference between local and national designations, which can be used for other mailings as helpful information. Roudebush noted that Friend Rose Drain made suggestions, which are in the ^{November} ~~December~~ minutes.

AGENDA ITEM #5: FRIENDS OF THE HPC

A. Historic Buildings of the Month

Saylor turned in the article about the Chidester Theater, which was announced at end of the month. The next highlight will be about the City as a “Marriage Mill” houses (Drain is writing).

AGENDA ITEM #6: INTERPRETATIVE SIGNAGE PROJECT

A. Planning – Ad Hoc Committee, Locations, Grant Applications

1. For the SHPO CLG Grant and Ohio History Fund Grant budget, Saylor contacted Fast Signs (who did the Wood County Museum signs) and forwarded a quote to the Commission. She also stated the Planning Department budget was approved for an additional \$25,000, so the HPC could meet the 40% match for the grant and other related expenses. The quote was for 12 single-sided signs on pedestal mounts, plus labor, at \$28,807.80. Saylor suggested two signs per block on East and West Wooster and North and South Main. Dick Martin and Mowen will help Saylor with descriptions and history. The ideas are to highlight certain buildings, people, places and significant events (e.g., Millikin). This is similar to the CLG grant received by Athens, yet, it had more of an audio tour component. The deadline for the grant application is March 31.

Saylor suggested procedure: The description is key. The grant outline is 13 pages. Project schedule. A coordinator or manager is needed, perhaps Mowen or Roudebush, who meets the Federal Register for Historic Preservation. Saylor will be City contact. There is a point system: economic development, education as a focus. The HPC should meet the criteria and not necessarily follow the extent of the Athens grant. Subcommittee is Sampen and Mowen.

Saylor suggested getting the application done before starting research and highlighting some buildings with existing information.

Sampen, Mowen, and Saylor will walk through downtown sometime this month to consider which properties to select.

AGENDA ITEM #7: PUBLIC RELATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

A. Future Workshops/Events

1. Audio Tour

Saylor looked at draft of script that Mowen received from Ted Long. Tour from Trinity UMC to Courthouse to North Main to Wooster to Prospect. Will be shared for additional feedback. There will be an app that he sells, but proceeds will be donated back to HPC.

2. Preservation Month (May 2023)

a. Workshop on Historic Tax Credits – The Workshop has been scheduled for February 8, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., in Council Chambers. Mowen working on more in-depth event with developers who have used the tax credits.

b. “Tell Your BG History” Session – No update.

c. Yard Signs

Saylor has been talking with Hallie Williams in Communications. They got a quote for yard signs, which Hallie will design. Saylor drafted a plan outline for who does what and when, and the deadline for responses from the public for participation. She has drafted the first of two press releases: one a request to owners to participate, along with providing building histories; and the other to promote participation in May as National Preservation Month. Commission members should help to be conduits to the



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community. Saylor asked what the HPC goal will be for participation; 25 signs? 50 signs? This will help determine the number of signs to order. The thought is to start with houses for which there are already histories about (from historic tours or buildings of the month). Motto for signs already discussed and given to Hallie: "History Lives Here." We may or may not have time for a map for self-guided walking tours, but signs can be reused in the future. A radio announcement on the Morning Show has been scheduled. The press release will be a joint press release with the Wood County Museum and Wood County District Public Library for all National Preservation Month activities to be listed together.

8. LOBBY VISITATION

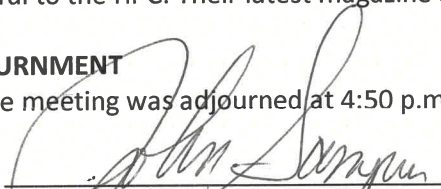
Rose Drain (Friend of the HPC) sad she could not find evidence that Jimmy Hoffa was married in a certain "Marriage Mill" house. She also said her cousin, Cindy Potter, worked for attorney Clarence Hock (1948-1950) and had some recollections of the marriage-mill era. Where did the term "marriage mill" come from? Perhaps from Gretna Green (near London, UK). Patricia Smith wrote two articles about marriage-mill towns, with a list of them throughout the United States.

Dale Arnold (Friend of the HPC) said the previous owner of 707 West Wooster Street, Chidester, was a 32nd degree Mason. He has also been interested on how many mayors were members of the Masonic lodge. He said one for sure was Frank W. Haskell, Mayor from 1920-21 or 23. His photo was found with some old photos in the lodge.

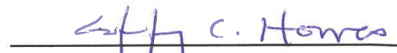
Saylor announced that the latest book in the City collection is *Historical Highlights of Wood County* by Van Tassel. Saylor also distributed copies of the final version of the HPC ordinance, reflecting new landscaping language. She also said the City joined Heritage Ohio, which should be helpful to the HPC. Their latest magazine arrived and she passed it to the commission for review.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



John Sampen, Acting Chair



Geoff Howes, Secretary