

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Manistee County Historical Museum
425 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2007

A Special Meeting of the Manistee City Historic District Commission was held on Thursday, October 17, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 70 Maple Street, Manistee, Michigan.

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. p.m. by Chair Kracht.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Dave Carlson, Maria DeRee, T. Eftaxiadis, Teena Kracht, Kelly Niles, John Perschbacher, Dennis terHorst

Members Absent: None

Others: Sid Scrimger (Fire Chief), Steve Harold (Manistee County Historical Museum), Jon Rose (Community Development), and Denise Blakeslee (Planning & Zoning)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Dave Carlson, seconded by Maria DeRee that the Agenda for the October 17, 2007 Special Meeting be approved.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by John Perschbacher, seconded by Maria De Ree that the Minutes of the October 4, 2007 Meeting be approved with corrections of typographical errors, correction of Flynn to DeRee, and John Perschbacher was excused having contacted the Chair and Staff prior to the meeting.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The November Meeting Agenda will include discussion on what is an excused absence.

NEW BUSINESS:

Knox Boxes

A Special Meeting of the Historic District Commission was scheduled so the Commission could meet with the Fire Chief regarding the installation of Knox Boxes on buildings in the Historic District.

Chief Scrimger discussed to program and how the installation of a Knox Box prevents damage to the building in the event of an emergency. These boxes provides only the Fire Department access to the building. The reason to have them placed on the front of the building is because that is where the Fire Department will respond to a call. The do not want to damage a building door or window to gain access when the installation of a Knox Box allows them to enter without having to wait for a building owner to drive into town or to have to damage a door or window to gain access.

Commissioner terHorst and Eftaxiadis entered the meeting during Chief Scrimger's presentation.

The Fire Department applied for and received a grant from the Local Revenue Sharing Board to purchase Knox Boxes for use in the City of Manistee. They have evaluated buildings by needs and are supplying them at no cost to the building owners at apartment complexes and to buildings in our Historic District. Because many of the buildings in the Historic District are constructed with common walls the potential for a fire to spread to an adjoining property is much greater. A Knox Box providing immediate access to a building can prevent thousands of dollars of damage and loss of our Historical Buildings.

The placement of these boxes is a concern for the Fire Department and members of the Commission and by working together the placement of Knox Boxes in the Historic District can be established.

Concerns questions by the commission included:

- Q. Could the boxes be exchanged for door hanging boxes as recommended by Robb McKay?
A. The boxes that Mr. McKay are referring to are for residential uses. These boxes have a hanger that goes over the top of the door and are not permanently affixed to the door. The amount of times a door to a business would open and close could cause damage to the door. Also the door is one of the most visible places that a box would be seen and has the most potential for vandalism.
- Q. Who pays for the boxes and installation
A. 44 boxes have been purchased using the gant money. The property owner is responsible for installation.
- Q. Are the boxes checked?
A. They plan to have an annual review by the Fire Department to make sure the keys work and that all of the keys for the building are included (if a lock were changed the new key would be installed).

Q. What is the cost for a recessed box?

A. About \$500.

Q. Would you change the boxes for recessed boxes?

A. This would require that the building be altered to accommodate the box and the owner would have to purchase a recessed box or if they were allowed to exchange them pay the difference in cost.

Members concurred with Chief Scrimger's suggestion that the manufactured recommendation that the boxes be installed at a height of 6 feet to prevent vandalism.

MOTION by T. Eftaxiadis, seconded by John Perschbacher that the Historic District Commission concurs with the plans of the City of Manistee Fire Department to provide Knox Boxes in the Historic District and that a representative from the Fire Department and the Historic District Commission evaluate each building and determine an appropriate location for the installation of a Knox Box.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 7 to 0.

Yes: Perschbacher, Eftaxiadis, DeRee, terHOrst, Carlson, Niles, Kracht
No: None

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Commissioner Niles requested a copy of the Ordinance that allows the Fire Department the ability to require the installation of Knox Boxes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jon Rose asked members to review the second half of the e-mail received from Robb McKay regarding neon open signs.

STAFF REPORTS

Commissioner Carlson and Chair Kracht agreed to work with Chief Scrimger on establishing locations for Knox Boxes.

The Next meeting of the Historic District Commission will be on Thursday, November 1, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 70 Maple Street, Manistee, Michigan

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Maria DeRee, seconded by John Perschbacher that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:23 A.M.

MANISTEE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise J. Blakeslee". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Denise J. Blakeslee, Recording Secretary