

# HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Council Chambers, City Hall  
70 Maple Street  
Manistee, MI 49660

## MEETING MINUTES

January 1, 2016

A Meeting of the Manistee City Historic District Commission was held on Thursday, January 1, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 70 Maple Street, Manistee, Michigan.

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Kracht.

### ROLL CALL:

**Members Present:** Aaron Bennett, Dave Carlson, T. Eftaxiadis, Teena Kracht, John Perschbacher, Mary Russell, Lee Trucks

**Members Absent:** None

**Others:** Mark Fedder (Museum Director) Steve Harold (Museum Curator) and Denise Blakeslee (Planning & Zoning Administrator) and others

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by John Perschbacher, seconded by Mary Russell that the Agenda be approved as prepared.

With a voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by John Perschbacher, seconded by Mary Russell that the Minutes of the December 3, 2015 Meeting be approved as prepared.

With a voice vote this motion passed unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### By Law Review

Annually the Historic District Commission shall review their By Laws at their regularly scheduled meeting in January. Members of the Commission discussed the By Laws and if any changes were needed.

The members discussed changing the review of By-Laws to December and inquired if members could participate by phone or skype. Call in would be limited to a specific number per year. Staff will ask the City Attorney about calling in for meetings and draft changes for the commission to review at the next meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

**Mark Fedder, Museum Director** – spoke to the commission about an inquiry from the Vogue Theatre to allow the installation of a hand rail on the east side of the building similar to the one on the Jackpine Building. The installation of handrails on the exterior of buildings in the district has been documented in newspaper articles (over 100 years ago). The Commission determined this was a safety concern and discussed conditions for approval and the need to expedite the request. The Vogue Board will meet to discuss the request later this month.

MOTION by T. Eftaxiadis, seconded by Lee Trucks that the Historic District Commission authorizes the Museum Director the ability to approve a hand railing that is professionally fabricated and installed similar in appearance to the existing railing on the Jackpine Building and the applicant is required to obtain a building permit from the State of Michigan.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 5 to 0. With Commissioner Russell abstaining because she serves on the Vogue Board.

Yes:	Eftaxiadis, Trucks, Perschbacher, Carlson, Kracht
No:	None
Abstained:	Russell

#### **MEMBERS DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Eftaxiadis informed the commission that a request will be coming from the developer of the River Parc Building at the February meeting.

Commissioner Bennett entered the meeting at 3:33 pm.

The Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about the importance of the district, talk from some people in the community that the Commission should be eliminated; tax credits, examples were given about the importance a Historic District has on communities, cost of maintenance and the need to preserve buildings.

The Next meeting of the Historic District Commission will be on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 70 Maple Street.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION by Lee Trucks, seconded by Aaron Bennett that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:54 P.M.

MANISTEE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Denise J. Blakeslee, Recording Secretary