

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

70 Maple Street
Manistee, MI 49660

MEETING MINUTES

September 1, 2021

A Meeting of the 2021 Historic District Commission was held on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 4:00 pm, Manistee, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 by Chair Trucks.

Members Present: Ron Helmboldt, Dennis Otto, Nick Hawkins, Thad Taylor, and Lee Trucks

Members Absent: Shelly Memberto and William Connor

Others: Zach Sompels (City Zoning /Planner 1), and Nancy Baker (Recording Secretary)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve the agenda as printed. Motion passed with a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Trucks wished to amend the minutes under Reports, Museum Curator/Director, screen doors with peat materials to be pet materials.

MOTION by Commissioner Hawkins, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve the August 4, 2021 minutes as amended. Motion passed with a voice vote

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA RELATED ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Finalize Mural Guidelines

Mr. Sompels stated the amendment to mural guidelines were sent to Mr. Alan Higgins of SHPO for allowable confirmation. Mr. Higgins made a minor recommendation. Mr. Sompels made the change to the mural guidelines. Commissioners inquired about the responsible party of maintaining a mural. Mr. Sompels stated maintenance could fall on the applicant or a

performance bond allowing the ability to cover the cost. All will require following HDC guidelines. Mural maintenance would require coming before the HDC.

MOTION by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve the final mural guidelines.

With a roll call vote: Yes; Helmboldt, Hawkins, Taylor, Otto, and Trucks. No: none
Motion passed 5 to 0.

Permit Review

Mr. Sompels stated all open listed permits will be inspected. He will close all completed permits. The permit list will be updated.

COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS

DDA Executive & Economic Development

No one in attendance to submit report.

Museum Curator/Director

Mr. Fedder was contacted by Ramsdell Theater. They requested utilizing the River Street Social Distance banners by putting up some banners for upcoming events. The Ramsdell would remove their banners by November. Mr. Fedder has approved the event banners. The HDC reviewed pictures of the banners.

Planning & Zoning Administrator

Mr. Sompels will present a report from the HDC to City Council. Permits will be reviewed along with mentioning the importance of the HDC. He stated Mr. Fricanos, owner of 440 River Street, is removing some façade to the building. This is a noncontributing building but still requires HDC approval.

Mr. Higgins, SHPO coordinator spoke on the following points.

- ❖ Has reviewed activities and goals with the Planning Department
- ❖ Different interpretation of reviewable/nonreviewable HDC items
- ❖ HDC does have authority to review changes to noncontributing properties within the Historic District (HD)
- ❖ Under the state law the HDC does have the authority to review buildings/properties in the HD that have not retained their historic character

- ❖ State law gives the HDC the authority to review (other than buildings) other features such as trash containers, banners, benches, etc.
- ❖ Any work in the HD must come before the HDC for approval BEFORE work is started
- ❖ The exact wording of the state laws/regulations can be supplied to the HDC
- ❖ It is recommended to consult the attorney in matters involving foreign nations
- ❖ Can be advisory to these types of situations

Mr. Sompels received confirmation from Mallory of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network regarding the upcoming training. The training will be September 15th, 4 pm, online. The recording will not be available; however, copies of the slides and notes can be provided.

MEMBERS DISCUSSION

Discussion ensued:

- Murals: a building owner and the participant could work together on being responsible, there are other scenarios regarding ways murals could be kept up, mural signage would come before the HDC.
- HDC can decide to look at things such as the butterfly garden or the small park between the businesses on River Street
- Benches and streetlights would come before the HDC
- Downtown benches: wood benches require a great deal of maintenance to keep them presentable, composite benches are washable with no maintenance, come in many colors including many shades of wood and last longer than wood

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.



Nancy Baker, Recording Secretary