

Minutes
Lansing Historic District Commission
Local History Room, Capital Area District Library
5:30-7:00 p.m. Monday, April 8, 2019
(Downtown Branch) Lower Level, 401 S. Capitol Avenue.
Lansing MI 48933

1. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Skillings opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

A. Introductions and Roll Call:

Present:	James Bell, Paul Connors, Rob Gibb, Heather Goupil, Carol Skillings, and Curtis Sonnenberg
Excused Absences:	Cassandra Nelson, Cynthia Redman, and Jaclyn Lillis-Warwick
Staff Present:	Bill Rieske
Also Present:	None.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

3. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – March 11, 2019 meeting. The March 11, 2019 minutes, as corrected, were approved by consensus.

4. North Lansing Historic Commercial District (Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase).

Mr. Rieske reported that the report was sent by the SHPO to the City for comment and recommendation. Mr. Connors asked for clarification on the HDC’s role in this district, since it is not an HDC project or a local historic district. Mr. Rieske report that because Lansing is a certified local government (CLG), its HDC is charged with the review of proposed National Register districts. A discussion ensued about the Digby Hotel, which later became Buck & Mary’s Hotel, and is now home to a Thai restaurant. Members agreed that although adding the current names to the buildings would be helpful, the report is quite thorough.

It was moved by Mr. Sonnenberg, seconded by Ms. Goupil, and APPROVED unanimously (6-0) to recommend approval of the North Lansing historic Commercial District (Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase) proposal.

5. Design Standards and Guidelines – Windows

Ms. Skillings introduce her draft of guidelines for windows. A discussion ensued about format (bullets vs. prose), other examples (besides East Lansing’s), and other approaches. Mr. Rieske noted that a former intern’s earlier work on guidelines for windows was enclosed in the meeting packet. Mr. Gibb noted that several examples were on display at the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) training in Kalamazoo. Mr. Gibb volunteered to gather some examples for discussion by the Commission.

A discussion ensued about how to focus Commission efforts on completing guidelines. It was agreed by consensus to start by scheduling a work session after the May 13 HDC meeting for the purpose of focusing on guidelines.

6. UPDATES ON:

- ReoTown Intensive Level Survey – Mr. Rieske reported that work is ongoing with the MSU students, Katie Kolokithas from the SHPO, Ms. Nelson. They will be presenting to the REO Town Commercial Association. Their final presentation is on April 26.
- Cherry Hill Historic District, incl. Cherry Hill School – Mr. Sonnenberg reported that the neighborhood association had met on March 21. They are planning a park cleanup, and have other ideas including getting some goats to help keep the park mowed, having bike polo on the tennis courts, and art in the park. Mr. Sonnenberg also reported that JIMHO is interested in selling the Cherry Hill School building.
- Cooley Haze House – Mr. Rieske said the purchase agreement is being revised by the City Attorney’s Office to include rezoning the property to “F” Commercial as requested by Mr. Vitale
- Preservation Lansing – No report.
- NAPC Training – Mr. Gibb, Ms. Skillings, and Mr. Sonnenberg reported on the March 23 training in Kalamazoo. The session on preservation guidelines may prove useful to the Commission, along with the format for motions by Commission members.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

8. COMMUNICATIONS – Mr. Rieske mentioned an East Lansing Info newsletter, sent to Commission members by Mr. Sonnenberg, regarding the possible elimination of historic districts in East Lansing.

9. STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

- Mr. Bell said that he would not be able to attend the May 13 HDC meeting.

10. PRESENTATIONS – None.

11. OTHER BUSINESS – None.

12. PENDING ITEMS – Continuing work on guidelines.

13. ADJOURNMENT was at 6:38 p.m.

Next Meeting: 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 13, 2019, in the CADL Local History Room, Lower Level, 401 S. Capitol Ave. NOTE: A work session, during which no official action will be taken, is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., or immediately following the meeting.