

City of Portage – Historic District Commission
Wednesday, March 4, 2009 – 8:15 a.m.
Portage City Hall – Conference Room #2

Minutes

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Mark Reile.

Members Present: Robert El Henicky; Mark Reile; Rose Mary Higginbottom; Ann Marie Kreuzer; Kathleen Fosmoe; Timothy Bunch; Michelle Dunlap; Amy Noonan, Youth Participant.

Members Absent: Jeanette Field, Susan Woerner.

Guests Present: Mary Beth Block, Staff Liaison; Seth Giem, Historic Homeowner.

Approval of Minutes: The February 4, 2009 meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

Announcements: HDC Account Balance as of February 26, 2009 was \$1012.45.

Old Business:

1. Project Leader Reports:

Archives – No report.

Book Sales – Mary Beth Block advised the city’s printers are capable of printing barcodes. The size of the barcode will determine the size of the labels. Approximately 900 books are in storage. Mark stated that the project is ready to move forward.

Community Awareness – Ann Marie shared that the Senior Center would consider publishing an article in their newsletter requesting Preservation Award nominees, if they received something in hard copy format in early January for 2010.

Newsletter – The deadline for the spring issue is just after the April meeting.

Oral Histories – No report.

Site Inspections – Mark visited the following sites:

- #21 (7119 Oakland Drive). He advised the property owners that the original single-pane windows may be replaced with standard double-hung windows. The roof leak is due to improper flashing. The insulation, which has settled and compacted, appears to be original. Information was provided on suggested vendors.
- #25 (8643 South Westnedge Avenue). The overhang, which is tongue and groove, was likely not back-primed. This allows moisture in, which inhibits paint from sticking to the wood. Mark will contact Mick Lynch for suggestions. The homeowner is not contemplating work in the near future. The roof looks solid.
- #30 (9426 South Westnedge Avenue). The craftsmanship of the new porches is good and as proposed in the drawing submitted. A small section of siding is yet to be completed. Mark will contact the Bogemas to discuss.

Other Site Inspection Activity:

- Mark will drive by Site #26 (2106 Forest Drive) to inspect activity noted last month.
 - Bob requested address clarification for sites 4 and 27.
 - The specific building on Mandigo (Site 39) was identified for Michelle.
2. 2009 Homeowners Gathering / Historic Preservation Award: The city has not received any calls for nominees. Mark indicated that it is not *required* that an award be given every year. Tim suggested acknowledging all HDC members. Discussion concerning the nomination of a specific homeowner who had recently performed extensive renovations in accordance with the recommendations of the committee followed.

Rose Mary reported on her visit to the Beacon Club. She will forward a copy of the proposed menu and further clarifications to Mark. The date of the gathering was set for May 12, 2009 at 6 p.m. at the Beacon Club (with the library as a back-up location). The \$15 per plate charge would be covered by a \$5 guest donation, a \$5 HDC donation and a \$5 comp by the Beacon Club. Larry Massie's \$500 speaker fee is beyond the budget. Mark agreed to give a short presentation on the beginnings of the Portage Historic District and the HDC.

New Business: None.

Citizen Comments: Seth Giem brought up the possibility of his site (The Train Barn) being in two historic districts – Portage and Vicksburg. He also shared that he was a member of the first HDC.

Member Comments: Mark mentioned that he had been in contact with Rick Searing, history teacher at PNHS, to discuss the possibility of involving the schools with the Historic District Commission. Mary Beth Block mentioned that a segment about Portage history had been taught to 2nd graders at Moorsbridge Elementary. Michelle asked if there was a slide show available to use in making community presentations.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Marie L. Kreuzer

Next Meeting: April 1, 2009, 8:15 a.m. – City Hall Conference Room #2