

City of Portage – Historic District Commission
Wednesday, January 6, 2010 – 8:15 a.m.
Portage City Hall – Conference Room #2

MINUTES

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 8:20 a.m. by Mark Reile.

Members Present: Mark Reile, Katie vanLonkuyzen, Amy Noonan, **Kathy** Fosmoe. Ann Marie Kreuzer, Robert El Henicky, Rose Mary Higginbottom ,Susan Woerner, Jeanette Field and Michelle Dunlap.

Members Absent:

Guests Present:

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of December 2, 2010 were approved by consensus with two modifications:

1. Michelle did not volunteer to act as PR contact
2. Commission members were asked to bring suggestions for homes suitable for the “mini tour” of the district, not places to hold the event.

Announcements: HDC Account Balance as of January 4, 2010 was \$662.45.

Old Business:

1. Project Leader Reports:

Archives – No report.

Book Sales – Mary Beth accepted Robert El Henicky's check for 10 copies of Where the Trails Crossed as prizes for the Portage Senior Center.

Community Awareness – No report.

Oral Histories – No report.

Site Inspections –Mark saw no further activity in his drive-by of the Reaume's home (Forest Drive). Jeanette observed a “For Sale By Owner” sign at 506 Bacon Avenue. Mary Beth will send them a letter. Michelle reported improvements at 2663 Mandigo Avenue.

Mary Beth advised the city does accept anonymous complaints for ordinance violations (of poorly maintained properties).

Newsletter – No report.

2. Annual Historic Homeowners Gathering: The event will be held Thursday, May 20 at the Portage District Library (room reserved 5-9 p.m.). Potential speakers will be contacted prior to the next meeting. Four members toured properties as suggested in December. Sites of interest were suggested for a student club tour (Susan will look into securing a school bus for same.) and award eligibility. Not all properties falling into both categories. The four cemeteries and Celery Flats as unit were again brought into the discussion. It was decided the

purpose of the tour would be to make nominations for the award. Katie will create a single informational page, complete with pictures, on the 10 properties. Public awareness articles in the March issue of the Portager, the Kalamazoo Gazette and the Portage Gazette (published on Saturday) were proposed. Refreshments, donations and expected number of attendees based on past events were broached.

3. Media Relations: This topic was adjourned to a future meeting.

New Business:

1. Election of Officers:

Mark Reile was re-elected as Chairperson
Ann Marie Kreuzer agreed to continue as Secretary.
The position of Vice-Chairperson remains open.

Citizen Comments: None

Member Comments: Mark requested the May meeting be held on May 12 due to a scheduling conflict.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Marie Kruezer

Next Meeting: February 3 at 8:15 a.m., Portage City Hall Conference Room #2