

City of Portage – Historic District Commission
Wednesday, August 1, 2012 @ 8:15 a.m.
Portage City Hall – Conference Room #1

MINUTES

Meeting Called to Order at 8:21 a.m.

Present: Mark Reile, Dorie Erhig, Christine Broberg, Hamilton Scharff, Allen Van Kampen, Rus Randall and Erica Eklov

Absent: Katie vanLonkhuyzen

Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting minutes of June 6, 2012 were approved with revisions.

Announcements: HDC Account Balance as of July 25, 2012 was \$438.15.

Old Business:

1) Site Inspections and Modifications:

- a) Update on 1521 East Centre (barn) – Information Only: Summary discussion regarding the June 12, 2012 letter to Tony and Lin Davis.

New Business:

1) Application for Certificate of Appropriateness – 5720 Oakland Drive (Vergunst)

- a) Mark opened discussion on the application for demolition of the barn at 5720 Oakland Drive.
- b) Mark, Al and Hamilton cited site visit; Christine and Rus relayed driving by to review
- c) Mark and Erica discussed recent history on the property's new ownership and future plans
- d) Discussion followed regarding alternative options for relocating of the barn, adaptive reuse, quotes for preservation/stabilization, disassembling and selling materials, etc.
- e) Hamilton inquired about structure's contribution to community; Dorie city Portage's agricultural history; Mark noted the other barns in the HDC
- f) Rus cited the "demolition by neglect" ordinance language and associated restrictions
- g) Discussion followed on prior action with other barns in the HDC; Christine and Al cited recent decision on barn at 1521 East Centre
- h) Al motioned to deny the application as written and proceed with stabilization plan (motion seconded by Christine, motion approved 6-0)

2) 50th City Anniversary

- a) Mark reviewed the inquiry from the City Council
- b) Christine suggested hosting annual gathering event at historic location
- c) Al suggested an update to "Where the Trails Crossed", discussion followed
- d) Discussion followed regarding expanding awareness efforts and publications (newsletter, signage)
- e) Al suggested better illustrating the old property boundaries and plats; Mark suggested illustrating schools districts and township divisions
- f) Suggestions offered regarding putting oral history sound clips on HDC web page; launching web applications with QR codes/ scavenger hunts, etc.

Citizen Comments: none

Member Comments: none

Adjournment: 9:40 a.m.