

Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 5, 2016

1. Meeting was called to order 7:03 pm by Don Hoefler, Chair.
2. In attendance: Cathie Gillis, Don Hoefler, John Horvat, Sandy Johnstone, Conrad Stack and John Wright. Missing: Jessica Herzig and James Koeppen. Also in attendance: Amy Drealan – City Clerk, Luran Howard, Darren Humphrey and Bret Scott – City Commission Liaison.
3. Consideration of September 7, 2016 meeting minutes: Motion to approve by John Wright, second by Conrad Stack. All in favor.
4. Public Comments – Items not on the Agenda: N/A
5. Treasurer’s report for September 2016 by John Horvat: Revenues: \$734.29; Expenditures: \$29.57; Ending balance: \$13,713.62. Motion to approve by Sandy Johnstone, second by Conrad Stack. All in favor. (Missing \$400 Kastler/Batteries Plus in advertising revenue and expense from James Koeppen for afterglow food \$89.)
6. Consideration of the Historical Commission updates:
  - a. Home and Garden Tour
    - i. 2017 tour date will be June 10th. Motion to approve by Conrad Stack, second by Sandy Johnstone. All in favor. (One week later since garbage pickup will be June 3<sup>rd</sup> as that is Memorial Day week.)
    - ii. Luran Howard brought up several opportunities for improvement for future tours, a good number of them we already discussed.
      1. Avoid negative language in the tour book. This is not what Pleasant Ridge is all about.
      2. General concerns about before and after and consider discontinuing. The historical commission agreed we like this feature and will attempt to continue.
      3. Use wrist bands for everyone.
      4. Consider making less personal (Franklin garden tour example). The historical commission feels the personal touch is what makes our tour special.
      5. Empty houses for sale should not be on the tour unless there is a story, be careful to not make it a real estate sale.

6. When designers, contractors, etc. are docents, please remind them it is not a sales opportunity.
7. Avoid having the tour on a trash pick-up day.

b. Historical Society

- i. Lauran Howard wrote the bi-laws for the Garden Club and the incorporation.
  1. Non-profit corporation at the state level.
  2. Was a 501c3 non-profit, but if you don't file your taxes for 3 years you are dissolved at the federal level.
  3. Get FEIN after apply for non-profit group from federal level.
  4. Then open a bank account.
  5. Then create by-laws. (We already have by-laws that we created.)
  6. Lauran Howard is not convinced it is a good idea.
- ii. Many junior commission openings for January: Planning & DDA has 3, Recreation has 2 and Historical has 3. Only 1 new application for all 3.
- iii. Planning commission has decided to go to quarterly meetings, unless something special comes up that requires a meeting.
- iv. Talk to Robert Campbell, George Lenko and Ralph Castelli. (Historical Commission used to have their money in someone's personal bank account.) Ralph may remember the process to bring Historical in as a Jr. Commission.
- v. We need a quorum in order to operate, which is 5 members.
- vi. Further discussion can take place in the November meeting.

c. Speaker Series

- i. There are no confirmed speakers at this time. The following are ideas we have been tossing around in the last several meetings:
- ii. Andrew Mutch writes a blog about southeastern Michigan Sears kit homes. Specific to Pleasant Ridge, he has confirmed two homes are Sears's kit homes. One on Kensington and one on Devonshire. Andrew did a speaker series in Huntington Woods on September 21<sup>st</sup> and is willing to also do something in Pleasant Ridge. John Wright and James Koeppen went to the presentation and it was very interesting. Becky Uber thinks there other kit homes in PR and can provide details.

1. Don to check with Andrew see if willing to do this year and available dates. Then check with Amy.
  - iii. History of the Pleasant Ridge pool. Scott P. has offered to do. John Wright will talk to him about it.
  - iv. Don Hoefler and James Koeppen met with Dave and Sandra Smith on Oxford and obtained the remaining videos that aired on the cities government channel. They brought up the subject of the Smith's doing a speaker series and they are thinking it over. Don Hoefler will contact Scott Pietrzak who has the rest of the videos which we believe may have been digitized.
  - v. James Koeppen will reach out to Dan Austin who wrote "Forgotten Landmarks of Detroit" or Gregory C. Piazza who wrote "A History of Detroit Palmer Woods" to see if they have interest.
  - vi. There is a strong interest by residents to learn how to research their homes. We discussed doing a field trip to learn ourselves. We would include information on how to research your home through the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library and Oakland County records in Pontiac.
- d. Historical Museum Staffing
  - i. Third Saturday of the month from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.
    1. October 15, 2016 – John Wright and Sandy Johnstone
    2. November 19, 2016 – Jessica Herzig and Cathie Gillis
    3. December 17, 2016 – Conrad (will check availability)
  - ii. The property database is available on a CD for Historical Commissioners to send home files. We will also see if we can put these files in the cloud or private network so we can access from home.
  - iii. General museum notes: \$10 donation to email home file. The person holding the museum key should bring it to our monthly meeting and give to the next person opening the museum. The Wednesday prior to the museum opening, have someone do a Facebook post notifying residents when it will be open.
7. Consideration of the City Commission Liaison Report by Bret Scott:
  - a. Increased code enforcement over the last year. Residences may be getting more notices in the mail on things like railings.

- b. Reviewed proposals for the area behind 4 Ridge and possibilities to make it an all season space.
  - c. The city is considering single-stream recycling (one large recycle can that does not have to be separated in the truck).
  - d. The city is considering electronic access to the recreation center and extending the hours. (Evaluating risk and demand.) Staffing times will not change.
  - e. Beautification awards were presented at the September meeting.
  - f. 100 year old homes presentation and plaques will be presented at the November meeting. John Wright will present at the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Amy will ask Scott to take pictures.
  - g. Brett brought up 3 openings in the Historical Commission. Everyone should check with their neighbors, friends, etc. to see if anyone is interested in joining.
8. Other Business:
- a. Christmas tree lighting. We are interested is supporting this year including raindeer, pictures with Santa and caroling.
  - b. City Commission is considering PR shirts to sell.
  - c. Luran Howard and Priscilla Eggen will be updating the gardens around the Historical Commission as part of the Garden Club. They have \$1,500 to start and the Historical Commission can add to that if needed. (Is there something native to the area?)
  - d. Don Hoefler will coordinate a full re-vamp of the Historical Commission website with Scott Pietrzak.
  - e. Need an e-mail set up – [Historical@PR.org](mailto:Historical@PR.org). Discuss after the tour. Scott to add chair to website and maybe email address.
  - f. Ann Perry who spoke with David Ceh suggested we remind people that if they would like to add to their file, they can. (Put something in the Ridger.)
9. Adjournment at 8:23 pm. Motion by Sandy Johnstone, second by Conrad Stack. All in favor.