

MINUTES

KENTWOOD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

January 6, 2020

Present: Dwell Moore, Karleen Root, Debi Crawford-Poyner, Reagan Adolfo, Jackie Moore, Dave Van Dyke

Absent:

Others present: Lisa Golder

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Debi Poyner-Crawford, with support from Dwell Moore, to approve the minutes of November 2019.

--Motion Carried—
5-1, Van Dyke dissenting

2. Kentwood history article for school newsletter

There was discussion about the article for the newsletter. The last two articles were about the strong mayor system in Kentwood and about landfill. Dwell has prepared an article regarding the establishment of townships in Michigan, although she had a few questions about this. After discussion Lisa said she would take parts of what each of them had written about townships and Paris Township, and send to Dwell for final approval. Anyone who wishes to write a newsletter article would be welcome to do so.

3. Magazines

Lisa said that a donation of old magazines and newspapers had been received. They are from around 1959-1970. Some of the newspapers are from other cities and some are local. There was discussion as to what to do with them. The newspapers from another state are of no interest to the HPC. The Commissioners wished to have additional time to review the old magazines and newspapers, to see if any are worth keeping for the HPC or for their own interests/education.

4. Calendar project

The Commission discussed the project. From the last meeting, the following dates/events could potentially be used for the calendar:

Feb 20, 1967: Kentwood becomes a city

Feb 27, 1967 First Commission meeting

August 23, 2010: Opening of new library:

Sept 2, 1980: 70/30 Policy adopted

Dec 2, 1977: Ground breaking-new City Hall on Breton Avenue

Nov 23, 1963 Kent County Airport moved to Cascade Township

July 6, 2014: Tornado

May 10, 1981: flood

1948: Flood

January 1943: Street name changes took place

July 19, 1956: First St. Mary Magdalen Mass takes place at Bowen Roller Rink

August 1975: Post Office open on 44th Street

April 13, 1834: Barney and Harriet Burton-first residents to move to Kent County

Other ideas that need specific dates include:

Steelcase established

Lacks Industries opening

When Octagon House and Bowen House were established as historic properties

When the Metro Cruise started

Cora Bowens Stauffer's birthday

Start of construction of Bailey's Grove development

Opening of first library on 44th Street

Closure of the dump

Closure of the gypsum mine

Birthdays of former/current Mayors

First train through the area

Dwell had a blank calendar to write the options for days and photos. Lisa will fill in the dates we have listed, and we will see if there are enough dates to fill the calendar. One or two dates a month should be enough. Debi suggested that we could also use the space on the calendar to provide more information on the pictures.

The pictures for the calendar were discussed. We do need to assemble the historic pictures we have. Some may not have good enough resolution to use. Lisa asked that people take pictures of pictures that they think may make a good calendar page and bring to the next meeting. There was discussion as to whether we could do an old picture and then a new picture from the same angle. Reagan said he could try to do that. He said he would try one picture that we have, such as the Octagon House to see how it turns out.

5. Other business:

The Commission discussed other potential projects for the year. Lisa asked whether we wanted to try to do another Mary Todd Lincoln event. It is too late for Presidents Day. Jackie said Wyoming is working on a Veterans Day project. There was discussion as to whether we know whether there are any WWII Veterans in the city. Lisa said that there is a program on Division Avenue at the Grand Rapids Public library on Thursday January 9th at 7:00. The speaker is Ed Pacinea. Jackie said that the Wyoming Historic Commission knows him. Lisa asked if Jackie could see if he is willing to give his lecture on Division Avenue south of 28th Street as a presentation for the Kentwood and Wyoming Historic Commissions.

6. Next meeting:

The next KHPC meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2020.

Newsletter topics:

Octagon House

Airport History

Diversity in Kentwood

Paris Township name

Heyboer Farm

Historic Preservation Commission

Snowstorm of 1978

Library history

Relocating the VanderLaan barn

Grange

Gypsum mines

Strong Mayor

Landfill

Township structure

MINUTES

KENTWOOD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

February 3, 2020

Present: Dwell Moore, Karleen Root, Debi Crawford-Poyner, Reagan Adolfo, Jackie Moore, Dave Van Dyke

Absent:

Others present: Gerry Noorman, Lisa Golder

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dave VanDyke, with support from Dwell Moore, to approve the minutes of January 2020.

--Motion Carried--

2. Kentwood history article for school newsletter

There was discussion about the article for the newsletter. Dwell has prepared an article regarding the establishment of townships in Michigan, although she had a few questions about the establishment of the township versus the establishment of the political jurisdiction. The article is not due until March. Dwell said she wanted to talk to Jack Bueche about this. Jackie will get Dwell a phone number for Jack so she can call him. There was discussion regarding writing an article on the Kentwood roller rink. There are several pictures that could be used. Jackie said that Wyoming may have good copies of the picture. There was also discussion regarding using an article written about Smith School in the Reminisce Magazine that may be able to be used. We could be able to re-use the article if we give credit to the author.

Lisa said she would write up the article on the roller rink. Jackie will ask the Wyoming Commission about the photo.

3. Calendar project

The Commission reviewed the dates on the proposed calendar. There are a few months—June and October--where we have no historic event noted. There was discussion about dates that could be added.

The following were suggestions about the calendar:

Add airport pictures—Dave has a number of them and may see if the airport would be interested in obtaining them.

Picture of Bill Hardiman, first black mayor, noting when he took office. There was discussion as to whether would want the recognition. Karleen will ask him.

Date that Richard Clanton took office after the passing of Mayor Root.

The Commission reviewed the calendar pictures. Reagan has taken a photo of the Octagon House, so we can do a “Then and Now” picture. This will not work for all of the photos in the calendar, as some of the structures are gone.

There was discussion of putting information (meeting dates, mission statement, etc.) on the Historic Preservation Commission on the back cover.

There was discussion about where the calendars could be sold. Suggestions include:

Pancake breakfast or at the 4th of July event

Booth at the MetroCruise

Farmers market

Health Expo in October

Library Book sale

Taste of Kenwood

At a private business—maybe Horrocks or another local business.? However, it might be easier if we sell the books to Horrocks to sell, so they do not have to collect the money for the city. Sales tax would have to be included in the price to make it easy for the merchants. Wyoming uses Marge’s Donuts; maybe Marge would also sell the Kentwood books.

Discussion ensued regarding the A decision would have to be made as to how many to have printed.

Lisa said that depending on the cost of printing we would have to go through the bid/purchasing requirements of the city. It is dependent on the dollar amount of the project; some smaller dollar amounts could be approved by the Mayor. We would at least need to get bids on the calendar printing. We will need to add to the budget for next year.

There was discussion on how much the Wyoming Commission charged for their calendars—it was \$8.50 this year and they started out printing 500 copies.

5. Speaker-Ed Paciencia

Lisa spoke to Ed Paciencia who has just finished giving a two-part presentation on Division Avenue from downtown to 28th Street and from 28th street to the south. He said he would be willing to give the presentation for the Kentwood/Wyoming Historic Commissions. We would need to come up with a date. It was suggested April 25th or May 2nd. Lisa will check the dates with the library. We may be able to use the smaller room on the first floor near the children’s area. We would have to get on top of the advertising to make sure that we have a good crowd. The participation of the Wyoming Historic Commission would be key since there are more visitors to their room and they have actually donated some of the photos for the presentation.

6. Other business:

Gerry updated the Commissioners on the donation of the Smith School items that had been previously displayed at the Discovery School. There are some very interesting books, photos, documents and items. After discussion about the items, the Commission talked about the possibility of having a program/presentation in the fall about the Smith School, or on one-room schoolhouses. People who went

to the school may wish to attend. There are a number of oral histories of people who attended the Smith School as well as video and photos from the Smith School reunions.

6. Next meeting:

The next KHPC meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2020.

Newsletter topics:

Octagon House

Airport History

Diversity in Kentwood

Paris Township name

Heyboer Farm

Historic Preservation Commission

Snowstorm of 1978

Library history

Relocating the VanderLaan barn

Grange

Gypsum mines

Strong Mayor

Landfill

Township structure

Roller Rink

MINUTES

KENTWOOD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

July 27, 2020

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: Dwell Moore, Karleen Root, Reagan Adolfo, Jackie Moore

Absent: Debi Crawford-Poyner; Dave Van Dyke

Others present: Gerry Lisa Golder

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dwell Moore, with support from Reagan Adolfo, to approve the minutes of February 2020.

--Motion Carried--

2. Kentwood history article for school newsletter

There was discussion about the article for the newsletter. Dwell had prepared an article regarding the establishment of townships in Michigan, although she still has questions and would like to speak to Jack Bueche. Jackie will get the information to Dwell. If it is too late for an August article, we will start up again in September.

3. Calendar project

There was discussion on the calendar project. Jackie said that the Wyoming calendar did not sell well. It is probably too late to print the calendar for 2020. There was discussion of preparing the calendar for 2021 and what would be needed by a printing company to prepare something to print. Lisa said that the city would need to follow procurement rules to have it printed which depends on the cost. Jackie will get an idea of what the calendar printing cost Wyoming. We should try to have the calendar printed for next summer so it can be sold at the farmers markets and MetroCruise and other events. Lisa said that she could do a mock-up on a Mac computer to make sure the events noted on the calendar are included in the final product. The printer will have to let us know if the quality of the photos is adequate.

4. Speaker-Ed Paciencia

The Division Avenue history presentation that had been scheduled in April was cancelled due to Covid. It might be next spring or summer before such an event could be undertaken at the library. It was determined that the target audience for the presentation would probably not favor online presentations.

5. Octagon House

The house has new owners that are financial planners and have used/renovated historic buildings in the past. They were eager to learn of the history of the house and have asked for photos. They understand the requirement for Historic Commission approval to the exterior of the building,

6. Other business

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of doing online interviews to collect information on how people are handling the Covid pandemic. Reagan has forwarded an interview he has completed asking people about the pandemic. Jackie said that there was an organization collecting these videos. She will see if she can find the information to share.

Next meeting:

The next KHPC meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 31, 2020 at 7:00PM. It will be a Zoom meeting. It was noted that some historic commissions are meeting outdoors to allow for social distancing.

Newsletter topics:

Octagon House

Airport History

Diversity in Kentwood

Paris Township name

Heyboer Farm

Historic Preservation Commission

Snowstorm of 1978

Library history

Relocating the VanderLaan barn

Grange

Gypsum mines

Strong Mayor

Landfill

Township structure

MINUTES

KENTWOOD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

August 31, 2020

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: Dwell Moore, Debi Crawford-Poyner, Jackie Moore

Absent: Karleen Root, Reagan Adolpho; Dave Van Dyke

Others present: Lisa Golder

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dwell Moore, with support from Debi Crawford-Poyner, to approve the minutes of July 2020.

--Motion Carried--

2. Kentwood history article for school newsletter

There was discussion about the article for the newsletter. The August article was about the development of Home Acres. Dwell has prepared an article about the 1918 pandemic in Grand Rapids, and she will be working on an article on townships now that she has the contact information for Mr. Bueche. Dwell shared that the information provided to the Commission has links to news articles regarding the pandemic.

3. Calendar project

There was discussion on the calendar project. Jackie said that the Wyoming calendar did not sell well. She reported that the Wyoming Commission had 250 calendars printed for a total of \$1,131.05, or \$4.52 have the calendar available for sale by July 2021.

4. Speaker-Ed Paciencia

The Division Avenue history presentation that had been scheduled in April was cancelled due to Covid. There was discussion on whether there would be an interest in having an online presentation of the Division Avenue presentation. Lisa will contact Mr. Paciencia to determine whether there is an interest in having WKTV do a video based on Mr. Paciencia's presentation. That way, a DVD could be shared with people that might enjoy it.

5. Octagon House

The house has new owners that are financial planners and have used/renovated historic buildings in the past. They have indicated that they are likely to request a change to their building that will require action from the Historic Commission.

6. Other business

Dwell reported that she met Bill Hardiman on the Paul Henry Trail.

The Commission discussed future meetings and how long it will be before the Commission can meet n person. The next meeting of the Historic Commission is scheduled for October 5, 2020. I will be a zoom meeting.

There was additional discussion about the calendar. Lisa said she does have the Numbers program on her home computer and will be able to input the calendar information. The pictures cannot be added to the calendar.

Next meeting:

The next KHPC meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7:00PM. It will be a Zoom meeting.

Newsletter topics:

Octagon House

Airport History

Diversity in Kentwood

Paris Township name

Heyboer Farm

Historic Preservation Commission

Snowstorm of 1978

Library history

Relocating the VanderLaan barn

Grange

Gypsum mines

Strong Mayor

Landfill

Township structure

MINUTES

KENTWOOD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

December 7, 2020

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Present: Dwell Moore, Jackie Moore; Karleen Root

Absent: Reagan Adolpho; Dave Van Dyke; Debi Crawford-Poyner,

Others present: Lisa Golder, Gerry Noorman

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dwell Moore, with support from Jackie Moore, to approve the minutes of August 2020.

--Motion Carried--

2. Kentwood history article for school newsletter

There was discussion about the article for the newsletter. Dwell had prepared an article about the 1918 pandemic in Grand Rapids, but the schools were reticent to publish it, so another article had to be developed. Lisa will prepare this month's article; any ideas for future articles should be sent to Dwell. Ideas discussed include the flood of 1981, the city's first Mayor (Peter Lamberts), Les Tassell (founder of Lescoa, Inc.), or the Paul Henry Trail. Lisa said she has asked Val Romeo about the Paul Henry trail and she has not received any information on its history.

The city has acquired the Christian Reformed Rec Center property at 36th and Shaffer. It will be a city park. The Rec Department is working on a history of the park; we could use that for a newsletter article as well. Lisa also informed the Commission that WKTV is interested in posting a historic picture once a week on WKTV with some historical information on the picture. The first picture looks to be the Ford Airport. Lisa had sent the picture to Gerry for positive identification. There was discussion regarding the airport and the other potential photos that could be used for this project. Lisa may need help identifying old pictures.

Gerry said that the computer in the library has many old pictures of the Tassell property, because her friend took pictures before it was renovated to become the Venue 32, a wedding and events venue. There was additional discussion regarding the Tassell family and the connection of the Lescoa company with Les Tassell. Lisa said there is an oral history on Mr. Tassell in the Heritage Room.

3. Calendar project

There was discussion on the calendar project. Lisa has additional events noted in the calendar. She will send the calendar without pictures to Dwell to print. She will also talk to the Purchasing Department

about how to go about printing the calendars. In order to be able to sell these at the farmers market or at other events, the calendar should be completed by early summer.

4. Speaker-Ed Paciencia

The Division Avenue history presentation that had been scheduled in April was cancelled due to Covid. Possibly by fall, restrictions for gatherings will be lifted and people may feel more comfortable going to the presentation by Mr. Paciencia.

Next meeting:

The next KHPC meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2020 at 7:00PM. It will be a Zoom meeting.

Newsletter topics:

Octagon House

Airport History

Diversity in Kentwood

Paris Township name

Heyboer Farm

Historic Preservation Commission

Snowstorm of 1978

Library history

Relocating the VanderLaan barn

Grange

Gypsum mines

Strong Mayor

Landfill

Township structure

City Hall

Train wreck