

## FARMINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Vice Chair Atkinson called the meeting to order at 7:37 P.M.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Atkinson, Bernath, Gundlach, Harrison, Grattan, Stacey, Weimar  
Excused: Myers, Resigned: Macdonald

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Gundlach, support by Harrison to add 23080 Gill Road property for discussion under new business. Motion by Weimar, support by Harrison to approve amended agenda. Both motions carried.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from regular meeting January 23, 2014 were approved after necessary changes made. Motion by Weimar, support by Harrison. Motion carried.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

A financial report was not available

### **AGENDA TOPICS, NEW BUSINESS**

**1 SECRETARY OF INTERIOR STANDARDS.** It was decided that all members review the Standards for follow-up discussion at the next regular Commission mtg. Using these standards as a basis for Farmington's standards would add consistency with the national standards and eliminate unnecessary confusion and ambiguity.

**2 MAIN STREET CONFERENCE.** Commissioners Weimar and Stacey expressed interest in attending the May 18-20, 2014 conference in Detroit. Monies from the City will be sought to defray expenses.

**3 HILL HOUSE TOUR.** The much anticipated Hill House tour at Green Mead in Livonia was postponed to a future date to be determined due to the tour guide's illness.

**4 PROPERTY AT 23080 GILL ROAD.** The old brick house is for sale and may be altered in the future. The Commission discussed the possibility of the site becoming a supplemental Historic District within the City's borders. Further study is needed.

### **WARNER MANSION ACTIVITIES**

Commissioner Bernath updated the Commissioners on planned activities at the Mansion. Among these were several porch parties for fund raising, the Ghost Walk and a new Warner Mansion Events brochure will soon be available for the public information.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**1 ESTABLISH GOALS OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION.** The Commission's goals are continuing to be looked at a defined by the group as a whole with using the Secretary of Interiors standards as a guideline. Including possibility of expanded boundaries of the District.

**2 STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY ARCHITECTURALLY AND HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF THE CITY.** Commissioners Weimar and Stacey, members of the committee will use the original press release from last year announcing the study committee. They will use the City's photographic inventory of properties in the City for evaluation regarding their historic significance. The goal is to compile an inventory/evaluation report.

**3 CITY SIGNAGE FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.** Commissioner Harrison has compiled information on the availability of signs and designs for new signage to be placed at the Historic District's boundaries. Monies needed to fund their purchase will be needed with the help of the City Manager's advice and approval.

**4 PLAQUES FOR HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT HOMES WITHIN THE DISTRICT.** Traditionally, homes with historic significance have had the opportunity to purchase brass plaques for outside mounting. There have not been any recent requests, but the Commission would like to announce their availability in the local papers. The purpose would be to make the public aware of them and the Historic District's existence.

**5 BUILDING DEPT. COMMUNICATION.** One of the concerns the Historical Commission has is timely and efficient communication with the building department. Currently, there is only a 14 day period to review and comment on proposed changes made by homeowners. The Historical Commission does not think this is an adequate amount of time. This would be one of the topics for the Ad Hoc Committee would address in future study sessions.

**6 HOME ARTICLES FOR THE OBSERVER.** Currently, several Commissioners are working on articles for future presentation in the Observer. There also will be an announcement for the availability of the brass plaques for outside mounting mentioned in Old Business.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **GOOD AND WELFARE**

It is with regret that the Farmington Historical Commission accepts the resignation of Commissioner Janet Macdonald. During her tenure, she helped immensely with marketing, sales, technical, social networking and numerous new ideas for the Commission to consider and adopt. We thank for her work and contributions. Also, the Historical Commission would welcome an architect in the community to help it assess and study historic structures and homes in the City of Farmington. The pending sale of

Ginger's on Grand River in downtown Farmington is also a concern of the Commission. It is hoped the structure will not be altered/and/or demolished.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M. by Vice Chair Atkinson

Respectfully submitted by Vice Chair Atkinson