

City of Portage – Historic District Commission
Wednesday, September 2, 2009 – 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: Robert El Henicky, Mark Reile, Susan Woerner, Kathy Fosmoe, Ann Marie Kreuzer, Jeanette Field and Michelle Dunlap.

Members Absent: Rose Mary Higginbottom

Guests Present: Seth Giem and Tom Reaume, Historic District Homeowners

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of August 5, 2009 were approved by consensus.

Announcements:

1. HDC Account Balance as of August 26 was \$622.45.

Old Business:

1. Project Leader Reports:
 - Archives* – No report.
 - Book Sales* – Susan will arrange an in-person meeting with Barnes & Noble regarding bar codes and proposed weekend table promotion.
 - Community Awareness* – No report.
 - Newsletter* – Ann Marie will write an article about HDC plaques. Jeanette suggested including the link to *This Old House* and *Preservation* magazines. Robert proposed creating a slogan or motto and using the newsletter to share it.
 - Oral Histories* – No report.
 - Site Inspections* – Mark contacted the Bogemas (Site #30 – 9426 South Westledge Avenue) after the last meeting with no response to date. The Hershlebs (Site #21 – 7119 Oakland Drive) contacted Mary Beth Block advising that they wish to install three new windows before winter.
2. Historic Home Plaques: Susan's plaque gets a lot of attention and she believes they paid approximately \$35 for it. Seth Geim (Train Barn owner) has two plaques. Ann Marie suggested that they be uniform, easily recognizable (like those from the state) and provided at no cost. There is a need to determine which properties have plaques, if they are displayed, etc. Ann Marie will follow up.
3. Architect for 2010 Commission: Mark emailed six Portage residents who are architects to discuss serving on the Historic District Commission without success. He knows of potentially two more that he could contact. He is also exploring the possibility of remaining on the Commission. Rose Mary Higginbottom will continue for a second term after her present appointment expires December 31, 2009. Three applications are pending for the vacancy created by Timothy Bunch in May, with interviews scheduled for the first week of October.

4. Properties for Sale: The Commission discussed the historic designation reminder letters dated August 5, 2009 from Mary Beth Block to three owners and their realtors, the email from the realtor for 1521 East Centre Avenue dated August 11, 2009 and the city's response letter dated August 24, 2009 included as agenda attachments. Kathy Fosmoe advised that she will give a brief presentation on September 3 to local agents from some of the smaller area firms on the topic. Mark recommended Commission members again familiarize themselves with the ordinance.

New Business:

1. Application for Modification: 2106 Forest Drive (Tom and Elizabeth Reaume).

The application, dated August 24, 2009, for installation of vinyl siding over existing siding that is believed to contain asbestos, was reviewed. Owner Tom Reaume reviewed his proposal to blow in insulation, creating 2-½-inch holes, covering them and encapsulating the existing siding on the home with a flat foam. He provided a sample of Carvedwood vinyl siding, soliciting color recommendations (dessert sand, wicker and pebblestone) from the Commission to go with white trim and existing white eaves. He proposed 2-¼-inch limestone, followed by a 30-inch cultured stone wainscot (sample to be provided) that he would install himself. He addressed the challenge of siding flush with the windows and use of a drip channel underneath, illustrating his points on the white board. The group acknowledged that sometimes smaller sample pieces can be deceiving and a final color selection needed to be based on the overall presentation of limestone, stone and siding. Motion to conditionally approve the application, pending a final review of color choices, was made by Michelle, seconded by Susan. Motion approved.

During the discussion, Tom shared that a 5-foot by 5-foot section of his roof was repaired and he plans to build a 2-½ car garage (to match the house) in place of the current one.

Citizen Comments: Seth Giem announced that he reopened the Train Barn on July 24 with an anticipated closing early in the new year.

Member Comments: None.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Marie L. Kreuzer

Next Meeting: October 7, 2009 at 8:15 a.m. in Portage City Hall Conference Room #2