



Royal Oak

HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE

Royal Oak Historic District Study Committee

Minutes – February 24, 2022*

City Hall - 203 South Troy Street, Conference Room 116, Royal Oak, MI 48067

**Postponed from February 17 which was cancelled due to the weather*

1. Call to Order - 7:06 pm
2. Roll Call - Patrick Andras, Tammis Donaldson (interim Chair), Rob Duchene, Chris Kraska, Eric Romain, Leslie Snow, Lillian Wilson
Guests: Lisa Breuer (Friends of the Main Art Theater & RO Women's Club President;
Carol Schwanger
3. Approval of Agenda – February 24, 2022 - Patrick Andras made a motion to approve the agenda with amended date, seconded by Leslie Snow. APPROVED
4. Public Comment - Lisa Breuer from the group Friends of the Main Art Theater (FOMAT) shared with the HDSC the purpose, goals, and actions so far of FOMAT. The group hopes to preserve the Main Art Theater as a destination for independent art and films, and also preserve the building itself due to its history and legacy. They are seeking support and insight regarding the historic nature of the building from the HDSC. FOMAT will be hosting a film screening at the Farmers Market on March 10 to raise awareness and funds.
5. Approval of Minutes: December 16, 2021 - Robert Duchene made a motion to approve the minutes from December 16, seconded by Patrick Andras. APPROVED
6. Election of HDSC Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer - Rob Duchene made a motion to accept the nominations as follows, seconded by Leslie Snow. APPROVED
2022 HDSC Positions:
Chair - Tammis Donaldson
Vice-Chair - Chris Kraska
Secretary - Leslie Snow
Treasurer & HC Liaison - Patrick Andras
7. Historical Commission Report - Patrick Andras noted that there will be an Orson Starr House open house in March. Paranormal tours are very popular and are ongoing with a new organization. The annual Civil War Day will be held on May 21. Ideas for events for the year include an ice cream social.
8. Unfinished Business
 - a. Study Reports Update
 - i. List of Historic Districts
 1. Royal Oak Savings Bank Building Historic District - Need to find this one
 2. Hilzinger Block Building Historic District
 3. B & C Grocery Store Historic District
 4. Royal Oak Woman's Club Historic District - Still working on tracking this down
 5. McDowall House Historic District
 6. Orson Starr House Historic District
 7. George and Anna Hilzinger House Historic District
 8. Stauch House Historic District
 9. Hermann's Bakery Historic District
 10. The Baldwin Theatre Historic District
 11. Knowles House Historic District

- 12. Fleming Goodrich House Historic District
- 13. L.A. Young Historic District
- 14. Royal Oak Farmers Market – not in the ordinance yet
 - a. Carol Schwanger will follow up with the City Attorney regarding the ordinance for the Farmers Market and the survey for the property
 - ii. Copies to Historical Museum and Library (C Kraska) - Postponed until next meeting
 - iii. Hardbound copies of all reports - Postponed until next meeting
 - iv. Status of Woman’s Club Report - No findings on the original ordinance yet
 - 1. Leslie Snow reached out to Barb Randau’s family about her records and has not heard back
 - 2. Lisa Breuer is looking through Woman’s Club records and will let the HDSC know if she finds anything
 - b. CLG update (C. Schwanger) - Carol Schwanger will finish the application as soon as possible
 - c. Writing Study Reports Update (L Snow) - Postponed until next meeting
- 9. New Business
 - a. Main Art Theatre Discussion to Start Preliminary Investigation - Eric Romain shared his findings of a preliminary investigation of the history of the Main Art Theater. He will also email the presentation to the group and Lisa Breuer. Rob Duchene made a motion to draft a letter in support of historic preservation of the Main Art Theater, seconded by Patrick Andras. APPROVED
 - b. Refresh Vinsetta Bridges (R Duchene)
 - i. Propose Historic Designation Review Letter to City Commission Prepared by L Snow - Leslie Snow will update the letter and email to Carol Schwanger.
 - c. 1999 Windshield Survey
 - i. Email to City Commissioners (completed 12/20/2021) - There has not been a response regarding this email.
 - ii. Review Elaine Robinson Email Response (Author of the Windshield Survey)
 - 1. Possible Certified Local Government Grant - The HDSC discussed the possibility of looking into a grant to update the survey if we are accepted as a CLG.
 - d. McDowel House – write up with new format (C Kraska) - Postponed until next meeting
 - e. City of RO Master Plan and Historic Preservation Participation (C Schwanger) - Postponed until next meeting
 - f. Windmill House – Property for Sale
 - 1. Instigated by the HDSC Preliminary Voluntary Research (C Kraska and R Duchene) - Postponed until next meeting
- 10. Other Business - None
- 11. Adjournment - Rob Duchene made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tammis Donaldson. APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm in City Hall Conference Room 116

Minutes recorded by Leslie Snow