



Royal Oak  
**HISTORIC DISTRICT  
STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Royal Oak Historic District Study Committee  
Minutes – February 21, 2019**

Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center - 3500 Marais Ave, Royal Oak, MI 48073

1. Call to order – 7:05 pm
2. Attendance – Ruth Cleaveland, Tammis Donaldson, Rob Duchene, Jim Keillor, Leslie Snow  
Absent excused: Chris Kraska, Barb Randau  
Pat Andras (Historical Commission)  
Guest: James Krizan (Assistant to the City Manager)
3. Approval of January minutes – Jim Keillor made a motion to approve the minutes,  
seconded by Rob Duchene. APPROVED
4. Treasurer's Report – Tammis Donaldson submitted a receipt for full-scale copies of Farmers  
Market blueprints.
5. Public Comment – None
6. Historical Commission Report – Pat Andras reports that Alexandra Kerrigan was elected HC  
Chair, and that Crain's just reported the sale of the Almon Starr House, but that the HC will  
be asking the City Attorney for information because the HC is listed on the ASH deed.
7. Unfinished Business
  - a. Washington Report – Rob Duchene shared the write up of the history of Washington  
Avenue, including mention of the Harrison-owned properties. He will refine the  
specifics of those references for the next meeting.
  - b. Report on Farmers Market – The HDSC will begin compiling and adding information  
to the report template.
  - c. HDSC webpage and storage space – Leslie Snow shared that Carol Schwanger and  
Judy Davids are looking through City files for electronic copies of approved final  
historic designation reports (those submitted to the City Commission) and will be  
posting to the HDSC webpage. Storage space can only be used for completed  
documents and not file sharing of in-progress reports.
8. New Business
  - a. Decide on schedule to review Commissioner Gibbs' property – Ruth Cleaveland will  
arrange a site visit of the property some time on a Sunday afternoon in April and  
communicate this date to HDSC members.
  - b. Distribution of minutes – Ruth Cleaveland has been providing and discussing a copy  
of the HDSC minutes with Farmers Market Manager Shelly Mazur to inform her of  
progress on the historic designation report. Leslie Snow will email a copy of the  
minutes to Shelly going forward.
  - c. Significance of Farmers Market – Tammis Donaldson shared historical drawings and  
blueprints of the Farmers Market property from the late 1920s through the late  
2000s. These blueprints detailed the replacement of the original glass windows to  
the current plastic ones, removal of the "Greek pediment porch," addition of towers  
and porches on the east and west sides. These drawings and blueprints show that  
the market structure itself has remained largely unchanged, preserving its function as  
a cultural and community institution. Discussion will continue to determine the legal  
boundaries of the Farmers Market, which is needed for the report that will be  
submitted to the State.
  - d. Clay plaque interest – Ruth Cleaveland reports that Mrs. Norris on Altadena (LA  
Young Historic District) interested in purchasing a plaque, as well as the City for the

Orson Starr House. The artist is looking into accommodating Mrs. Norris' request to also include the builder's name on the plaque, in addition to the name of the historic district.

- i. HDSC members discussed the possibility of having a plaque with the brief history of Altadena (LA Young) at the entrance to the street, as well as the addresses of the included designated district; Ruth Cleaveland will contact Bruce Weaver to find out how neighbors would feel about such a sign.
  - e. Designated properties cards – Jim Keillor will invite Gary Briggs to the March meeting to discuss efforts to create cards acknowledging designated properties with a photo and date (similar to what is done in Birmingham, for example).
  - f. Royal Oak Review newspaper article – Ruth Cleaveland shared an article from the February 21 Royal Oak Review discussing historic preservation. All HDSC members should read it.
9. Motion to Adjourn – Rob Duchene made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Keillor.  
APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.  
Next meeting: March 21, 2019

Minutes recorded by Leslie Snow