



Royal Oak
**HISTORIC DISTRICT
STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Royal Oak Historic District Study Committee
Minutes – March 23, 2023**

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

1. HDSC Call to Order - 7:08 pm
2. Roll Call - Patrick Andras, Chris Kraska, Leo Derdelakos, Tammis Donaldson, Rob Duchene, Eric Romain, Carol Schwanger
Guest: Brigitta Burguess
3. Approval of Agenda – March 23, 2023 - Rob Duchene made a motion to approve the agenda for March 23, seconded by Leslie Snow. APPROVED
4. Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2023 - Rob Duchene made a motion to approve the minutes from January 19, seconded by Chris Kraska. APPROVED
5. Public Comment - Brigitta Burguess attended the meeting after seeing the meeting date posted on the City website. She is interested in Royal Oak history and its historical groups. Carol Schwanger and the HDSC provided an overview of the City's groups (both appointed and volunteer) and how she could get involved.
6. Report from Eric
 - a. 100-year house plaque - The Historical Society of Michigan offers a plaque program for homes that are 100 years old and are in substantially original condition. The plaque is available for a fee if the home is approved. Some research and documentation is required. The application available on through the HSM's website.
7. Report from Pat Andras & the HC
 - a. Historical Commission updates - The Orson Starr House Civil War Day will be held on Saturday, May 20 from 11am-5pm. Side porch plans are ongoing and are waiting on a certificate of appropriateness from the HDC in order to proceed with construction. The HC would like to pursue National Register designation with the help of Elaine Robinson and Commonwealth.
8. Unfinished Business
 - a. Vinsetta Bridges
 - i. Preliminary report completed and turned into SHPO for January 20, 2023 review. (SHPO does not approve rather reviews and comments). Based on SHPO comments; the HDSC had a working meeting in February to update and revise report. Finalize report March HDSC meeting. - HDSC members worked together edit the final report. Rob Duchene will add information from Chris Kraska to the history portion and send to Leslie Snow for inclusion in the report. Leo Derdelakos will finalize the tree survey and Leslie Snow will add to the report. Leslie Snow will add additional pictures of the bridge and make final proofreading edits.
9. New Business
 - a. Certified Local Government (CLG)
 - i. Historic Context survey report
 1. Status - Elaine Robinson at Commonwealth Heritage Group reported to Tammis Donaldson that a signed and executed contract for the project has been submitted. Local photography and background research to define the historic contexts will be starting soon. A draft of a report will be available in August. Carol

Schwanger reports that the City will be organizing a public engagement event.

- b. Discuss list of potential new projects
 - i. Prepare letter to owners with fun facts attached.
 - 1. Washington Square Building - Leslie Snow shared a draft of a letter to be sent to owner of WSB with information from Rob Duchene. Eric Romain will provide additional information to Leslie regarding the Royal Oak Music Theater. Leslie will edit and send to Carol Schwanger to mail out.
 - 2. Grinnell Building - Leslie Snow will compose a draft letter to the owner of the Grinnell Building to be shared at the April HDSC meeting.
10. Committee member comment -
- a. Tammi Donaldson reported that she attended the Master Plan public engagement session for her neighborhood. It was a fruitful discussion. Tammi's comments centered on emphasizing historic preservation in the Master Plan.
 - b. Carol Schwanger reported that SHPO and the Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) will be hosting virtual workshops on April 13th and 20th. MHPN's 43rd Annual Statewide Preservation Conference will be held on Mackinac Island at Mission Point Resort May 11-May 13. Let Carol know if you would like to attend.
 - i. Carol Schwanger asked if the HDSC would like to renew its Chamber of Commerce membership. Members decided not to.
 - c. Rob Duchene reported that he will be attending the Historical Society of Michigan's Local History Conference this weekend (March 24-25).
11. Adjournment - Rob Duchene made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Leslie Snow. APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm* at City Hall.

*Chairperson will confirm meeting time depending on possible call with Elaine Robinson.

Minutes recorded by Leslie Snow