



RoyalOak
**HISTORIC DISTRICT
STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Royal Oak Historic District Study Committee
Minutes – April 20, 2023**

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

Pre-Meeting - 6:34 pm

Historic Context Report progress report from Elaine H. Robinson Senior Architectural Historian - Chronicle Heritage -

Background research has begun and Elaine requested several resources from the City/HDSC that will help with that research. The HDSC will provide those as soon as possible. Elaine will be in the Royal Oak area May 7-10 and plans to continue research at the City, Library and Historical Museum. A meeting with the HDSC may be scheduled.

Regular Meeting

1. HDSC Call to Order - 7:06 pm
2. Roll Call - Chris Kraska, Leo Derdelakos, Tammis Donaldson, Rob Duchene, Eric Romain, Carol Schwanger, Leslie Snow; excused absence - Patrick Andras
3. Approval of Agenda – April 20, 2023 - Rob Duchene made a motion to approve the agenda for April 20, seconded by Chris Kraska. APPROVED
4. Approval of Minutes – March 23, 2023 - Rob Duchene made a motion to approve the minutes from March 23, seconded by Chris Kraska. APPROVED
5. Public Comment
 - a. Patrick Sharrak (HDC Chair) - HDC project updates
 - i. Plans are being reviewed for:
 1. Orson Starr House side porch
 2. Hilzinger House windows
 3. McDowell House addition
 4. Kal's Lunch Bowl pickup window at the Farmers Market
6. Report from Rob - Historical Society of MI conference in Novi - Rob Duchene attended the Regional History conference put on by the Historical Society of MI. Talks that Rob attended centered on topics of Hamtramk, Albert Kahn and Belle Isle, the Kosher Meat Riots (1910), and kit homes.
7. Report from Leslie - Update on the DAR presentation and HP presentations in general - Leslie Snow showed members the presentation that she did for the Royal Oak Ezra Parker DAR chapter. The presentation can be tweaked or elaborated. Members discussed holding an info session and presentation at the Library in the coming months and possibly including other Royal Oak historic groups. Leslie will reach out the Library to find out options.
8. Robert's Rules update from Chris & Leo - Chris Kraska and Leo Derdelakos attended the training session on Robert's Rules of Order sponsored by the City. They report that the HDSC is doing very well in following the rules during meetings. One point mentioned in the training is to be sure that decisions are not made over email.
9. CAMP webinar update - SHPO partnered with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) to offer one of their Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) webinars. Carol Schwanger and Leo Derdelakos noted that interesting topics discussed during the webinar included Midcentury Modern design and code violations. Carol Schwanger suggested that the HDSC document and come up with a plan if changes are made to designated properties. Members are encouraged to watch the recorded sessions when they're published.

10. Unfinished Business

b. Vinsetta Bridges

- i. Preliminary report completed and turned into SHPO for January 20, 2023 review. (SHPO does not approve rather reviews and comments). Members reviewed the report and suggested additional changes. Once the report is complete, Leslie Snow will distribute to Carol Schwanger and Tammi Donaldson for distribution to the City, Elaine Robinson, SHPO, the Historical Museum and Library.

11. New Business

c. Historic Context survey report; in progress (see Pre-Meeting notes)

d. Discuss list of potential new projects

i. Prepare letter to owners with facts attached

1. Washington Square Building - Letter to property owner has been sent. Members await a response and will discuss how the HDSC can follow up.
2. Grinnell Building - Chris Kraska will compile facts for the letter to property owners and Leslie Snow will incorporate into the letter template. Leslie Snow will have the letter ready for review at the next meeting.

ii. Chris Kraska discussed the possibility of documenting a list of homes/buildings in the City that have been moved.

12. Committee member comments - Patrick Andras (via email) and Tammi Donaldson noted damage to one of the Vinsetta Bridges. Members discussed how to best monitor that the bridges are properly maintained and repaired if damage occurs in order to retain their integrity.

13. Adjournment - Rob Duchene made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Leslie Snow. APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm

Next meeting: Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm at City Hall.

Minutes recorded by Leslie Snow