



RoyalOak
**HISTORIC DISTRICT
STUDY COMMITTEE**

Royal Oak Historic District Study Committee

Minutes – Thursday, June 17, 2021

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

1. Call to Order – 7:06 pm
2. Roll Call – Ruth Cleaveland, Tammis Donaldson, Chris Kraska, Leslie Snow
Absent excused: Patrick Andras, Rob Duchene, Melinda Loftin
Guests: Carol Schwanger (Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor and City Manager)
3. Public Comment – None
4. Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2021 Meeting - Tammis Donaldson made a motion to approve the minutes from May 20, seconded by Chris Kraska. APPROVED
5. Unfinished Business -
 - a. Historic Designation of the Royal Oak Farmers Market Update - On May 24, the City Commission approved the resolution to draft an ordinance to establish the Farmers Market as a historic district. After the downtown park is finished, there is interest in some sort of plaque presentation.
 - b. Historic Designation of 232 Woodside Road Update - After review and discussion of research and walk-through information, the HDSC agreed that the house does not fully meet designation criteria to continue with the study. Chris Kraska made a motion to inform the owners as soon as possible regarding this decision, seconded by Tammis Donaldson. APPROVED
Chris Kraska will put together a report of the research to provide to the owners.
 - c. Michigan Historic Preservation Meeting - Certified Local Government Application - The HDSC attended a phone call meeting on June 7 with Alan Higgins of the State Historic Preservation Office to discuss the process and details of becoming a CLG, and to address questions. Tammis Donaldson provided a synopsis of the phone call. One of the most important pieces of information was that by becoming a CLG, the HDSC can gain access to resources to assist in conducting surveys of historic properties, as well as grant money for historic preservation efforts. Tammis Donaldson and Carol Schwanger submitted Royal Oak code Ch. 82 regarding historic preservation to SHPO for review and the City will need to amend Ch. 82 language to more closely align with Michigan Legislature PA 169. Carol Schwanger has already begun collecting information needed for the application.
 - d. Study Reports Update - All previous study reports have been located except the Royal Oak Savings Bank and the Royal Oak Woman's Club. Carol Schwanger will check with the Royal Oak Public Library to see if they have a copy of the Savings Bank report, and Leslie Snow will follow up regarding the Woman's Club report.
6. New Business
 - a. Historic District Commission Request to HDSC to Study Hermann's Bakery Regarding Removal of Historic Designation - The minutes from the May 27 HDC meeting were read by the HDSC. The HDSC needs to write a report/letter addressing the three criteria for removal of historic designation and whether Hermann's Bakery meets those criteria. Tammis Donaldson made a motion that this report/letter be written, seconded by Chris Kraska. APPROVED
 - b. Potential Studies of City-Owned Properties -
 - i. Royal Oak Public Library - Mid-Century Modern - Community Engagement Specialist Judy Davids has done some research into the building and its Mid-

Century architecture and communications from notable people. The City would need to request that the HDSC study this property in order to move forward.

- ii. Royal Oak Cemetery - Michigan Historic Marker - There is a Michigan Historic marker for this cemetery, lending further credibility to what we know is its historic value. The City would need to request that the HDSC study this property in order to move forward.
 - c. GPS Walking Tours - Chris Kraska described a recent trip he was on where the city utilized a GPS walking tour app (Map n Tour) to guide people to historic/notable sites. He suggested that the HDSC look into this and creating a map that would include historically-designated properties as well as those that are notable to Royal Oak (but perhaps not designated). An app might help generate interest and awareness of Royal Oak historic properties and Royal history in general.
7. Other Business - None
8. Adjournment – Leslie Snow made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Kraska. APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.
Next meeting: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm in City Hall conference room

Minutes recorded by Leslie Snow