

**Historic District Commission
Minutes Of January 19, 2022**

151 Martin Street, City Commission Room 205, Birmingham, MI

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Historic District Commission ("HDC") held Wednesday, January 19, 2022. Vice-Chair Keith Deyer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1) Rollcall

Present: Vice-Chair Keith Deyer; Board Members Gigi Debbrecht, Natalia Dukas, Dustin Kolo, Patricia Lang; Alternate Board Member Steven Lemberg

Absent: Chair John Henke; Board Member Michael Willoughby; Alternate Board Member Cassandra McCarthy

Administration: Nicholas Dupuis, Planning Director
Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist

01-01-22

2) Approval of the HDC Minutes of December 15, 2021

Motion by Ms. Lang

Seconded by Ms. Dukas to approve the HDC Minutes of December 15, 2021 as submitted.

Motion carried, 6-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Debbrecht, Lang, Deyer, Lemberg, Dukas, Kolo

Nays: None

01-02-22

3) Courtesy Review

None.

01-03-22

4) Historic Design Review

None.

01-04-22

5) Sign Review

None.

01-05-22

6) Study Session

A. CLG Grant – Historic Design Guidelines (Update)

PD Dupuis provided an update, stating that the project had been granted a full-year extension of the deadline from the National Parks Service.

He said he was working with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office to update the RFP, with a goal of having the RFP posted on February 1, 2022 and a commencement of the project mid-to-late Summer 2022.

B. Bates St. Historic District Signage

PD Dupuis reviewed the item.

After discussion, PD Dupuis summarized that the HDC was interested in:

- Standalone signs, not integrated into the street signs, to designate the entrances to the historic district;
- A potential phased approach, which would start with the entrances to the district and then consider whether to add signage for the individual historic resources within the district; and,
- Simple signs that would allow access to more information, possibly via the use of QR codes.

The HDC concurred.

PD Dupuis noted that types of signs, locations, and designs could be further discussed amongst the HDC and residents of the district.

Mr. Lemberg said that potential sign examples would probably be useful for the discussion.

PD Dupuis said he would bring the item back to the HDC once more for review, and then would broach how the topic should be raised with residents. He said they could be invited to an HDC meeting with a lighter agenda to voice their opinions as one option.

The HDC concurred.

01-06-22

7) Miscellaneous Business and Communication

Vice-Chair Deyer asked PD Dupuis to confirm whether the Eco City information was posted to Birmingham's website.

A. Pre-Application Discussions

B. Draft Agenda

C. Staff Reports

1. Administrative Sign Approvals

2. Administrative Approvals
3. Demolitions
4. Action List 2022

PD Dupuis reviewed the proposed Action List for 2022.

Mr. Lemberg recommended that the Bates Street Historic District be added.

There was some discussion about considering whether a possible review by the HDC could be required for homes slated for demolition that are over 50 years old.

Mr. Kolo noted that the City Attorney would likely have to weigh in on that proposal.

The HDC said they would like to see it discuss as the Historic Preservation Master Plan action list item.

Ms. Lang said she would also like to see it as a standalone item on the list, and opined that time is of the essence in trying to preserve the City's historic housing stock.

Mr. Kolo said that keeping the proposal for a review as part of the Historic Preservation Master Plan would likely make the topic more acceptable to residents.

Vice-Chair Deyer concurred with Mr. Kolo.

PD Dupuis said it could be listed as a separate action item but still included in the Historic Preservation Master Plan.

Vice-Chair Deyer recommended updating the City's Historic Plaques as an action item.

PD Dupuis said the language on the plaques could be updated, and QR codes could be considered as well. He said that if updating the plaques were tied to a plan the HDC could potentially request more funding.

PD Dupuis said he would bring the item back once more to finalize the list.

01-07-22

8) Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Dukas

Seconded by Ms. Lang to adjourn the HDC meeting of January 19, 2022 at 7:52 p.m.

Motion carried, 6-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Debbrecht, Lang, Deyer, Lemberg, Dukas, Kolo

Nays: None



Nicholas Dupuis
Planning Director



Laura Eichenhorn
City Transcriptionist

APPROVED