

**Historic District Commission
Minutes Of December 15, 2021**

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

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Historic District Commission ("HDC") held Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Chair John Henke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1) Rollcall

Present: Chair John Henke; Board Members Natalia Dukas, Patricia Lang, Michael Willoughby; Alternate Board Member Steven Lemberg; Student Representatives Charles Cusimano, Elizabeth Wiegand (arrived 7:18 p.m.)

Absent: Vice-Chair Keith Deyer; Board Members Gigi Debbrecht, Dustin Kolo; Alternate Board Member Cassandra McCarthy

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

12-120-21

2) Approval of the HDC Minutes of December 1, 2021

Motion by Mr. Willoughby

Seconded by Ms. Lang to approve the HDC Minutes of December 1, 2021 as submitted.

Motion carried, 5-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Willoughby, Lang, Henke, Lemberg, Dukas

Nays: None

12-121-21

3) Courtesy Review

None.

12-122-21

4) Historic Design Review

A. 320 Martin St. - United States Post Office

Motion by Mr. Lang

Seconded by Ms. Willoughby to postpone the historic design review for 320 Martin St. - United States Post Office to the HDC meeting of February 2, 2022.

Leslie Banas, attorney, spoke on behalf of 250 Martin Street Condominium Association and stated that the Association was interested in learning more about the project. She said she would return for the meeting on February 2, 2022.

Motion carried, 5-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Lang, Willoughby, Henke, Lemberg, Dukas

Nays: None

12-123-21

5) Sign Review

None.

12-124-21

6) Study Session

A. CLG Grant – Historic Design Guidelines

PD Dupuis stated he reached out to some potential bidders to ask what prevented them from bidding on the project. He said that the firms largely cited a lack of time to undertake the project. He said he was told that neither the cost nor the scope were the issue.

PD Dupuis said he was working with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office to see if the federal deadline could be extended. He said he would repost the request for proposals to the Michigan Inter-governmental Trade Network soon, and noted that the firms also offered to spread the project along their networks to try and generate response.

12-125-21

7) Miscellaneous Business and Communication

The HDC directed PD Dupuis to request two joint meetings: one with the Planning Board (PB), and one with the City Commission (CC).

Ms. Lang said it might be appropriate to schedule said joint meetings annually. She said having all three boards on the same page could empower the HDC to be more proactive.

Chair Henke said educating the public about historic preservation and designation would be vastly more successful than trying to convince the CC to support any kind of involuntary historic designation of buildings. He noted that there were a lot of legal issues regarding non-owner-led historic designation.

PD Dupuis said he thought scheduling joint meetings for the spring or summer of 2022 might be feasible.

- A. Pre-Application Discussions**
- B. Draft Agenda**
- C. Staff Reports**
 - 1. Administrative Sign Approvals**
 - 2. Administrative Approvals**
 - 3. Demolitions**
 - 4. Action List 2021**

12-126-21

8) Adjournment

Seeing no further business, the HDC adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.



Nicholas Dupuis
Planning Director

APPROVED