



Royal Oak  
**HISTORIC DISTRICT  
STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Royal Oak Historic District Study Committee  
Minutes – May 18, 2023**

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

1. HDSC Call to Order - 7:07 pm
2. Roll Call - Patrick Andras, Leo Derdelakos, Tammis Donaldson, Rob Duchene, Chris Kraska, Eric Romain, Carol Schwanger, Leslie Snow.
3. Approval of Agenda – May 18, 2023 - Patrick Andras made a motion to approve the minutes for May 18 with the addition of item 5a (regarding 1016 Altadena), seconded by Rob Duchene. APPROVED
4. Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2023 - Rob Duchene made a motion to approve the minutes from April 20, seconded by Leslie Snow. APPROVED
5. Public Comment -
  - a. 1016 Altadena - The homeowner at the property would like to replace windows and came to the HDC with plans. The HDC will need more details regarding the plans. The homeowner states that they did not give permission for designation, only for the study and would like the historical status removed. The HDSC and HDC will be following procedure according to PA 169.
6. Historic Preservation Observations in Royal Oak
  - a. Threatened - 817 Maywood, Mid-century house - HDSC members will take pictures of the property and home for documentation.
  - b. Lost - Main (3818 N Main St.) & Edmund Ave - stone bridge - Tammis Donaldson noted that the stone bridge (that covered a small creek, an offshoot of the Red Run) is no longer present.
  - c. Watch - 1800 Vinton is for sale, across from the Vinton home
7. Report from Eric Romain - research tools - Eric shared with the group a way to pull raw data from SEMCOG maps to aid in documenting number of homes, number of homes by year, dates built, and styles. Eric is working to transfer this information into spreadsheets for our use. See presentation in Google Drive.
8. Report Chris Kraska - MHPN conference - Chris attended the Michigan Historic Preservation Network conference on Mackinac Island. Topics of interest that he attended included: common repair mistakes, pattern book homes of the 21<sup>st</sup> century (modified plans for function and scale), Michigan Tech's partnership with Calumet to help Calumet document properties with an online SHPO entry form hosted by the State, and designation reports (they were complementary of the Royal Oak HDSC's; in reports stick to the point/reason for designation and include one photo in the report and the rest can go in the appendix).
9. CAMP webinar update - Carol Schwanger asked WOAK to save several of the webinars so HDSC members can go back to watch them.
10. Historic Preservation campaign - Ideas generated to raise awareness regarding historic preservation in Royal Oak include a revamped brochure, walking/bike tour, social media, pocket map of historic homes.
11. Unfinished Business
  - a. Vinsetta Bridges
    - i. Preliminary report completed and turned into city Planning for review for June

- ii. Public hearing scheduled for July; Carol to confirm - Members reviewed Carol Schwanger's letter to Planning
- iii. Observations of bridge condition - Members noted that one of caps on the bridges is popping off. More attention to the ongoing condition of the bridges is needed.

12. New Business

- a. Discuss list of potential new projects
    - i. Letter to owners with fun facts attached.
      - 1. Washington Square Building; Sent. No response.
      - 2. Grinnell Building - Leslie Snow will finish this letter and sent to Carol Schwanger for mailing to the property owner.
      - 3. Land's Pharmacy; Note architect Yamasaki lecture MHPN webinar
13. Committee member comment - Patrick Andras noted that the Historical Commission would like to pursue national register designation for the Orson Starr House and the best way would be to hire a professional firm, but that is costly. He notes that the HC/OSH would likely need to raise/obtain funds to do that.
14. Adjournment - Rob Duchene made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Leslie Snow. APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm at City Hall.

Minutes recorded by Leslie Snow