



RoyalOak
**HISTORIC DISTRICT
STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Royal Oak Historic District Study Committee
Minutes – June 15, 2023**

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

1. HDSC Call to Order - 7:00 pm
2. Roll Call - Patrick Andras, Leo Derdelakos, Tammis Donaldson, Rob Duchene, Chris Kraska, Eric Romain, Leslie Snow; Carol Schwanger (excused absence, ill)
3. Approval of Agenda – June 15, 2023 - Rob Duchene made a motion to approve the agenda for June 15, seconded by Chris Kraska. APPROVED
4. Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2023 - Rob Duchene made a motion to approve the minutes from May 18, seconded by Chris Kraska. APPROVED
5. Public Comment - None
6. Historic District process review - Tammis Donaldson reviewed the process and requirements for adding or removing historic designation status of a historic district. Leslie Snow will put together correspondence regarding any of these requests.
7. Historic Preservation Observations in Royal Oak
 - a. Threatened; 1208 E 12 Mile (SE corner of 12 mile and Blair) 2,700 SF Residence - This lot is slated to be demolished and subdivided into three properties to be developed by Hillan Homes.
 - b. Lost; Main Art Theater, Main Street - The Main Art Theater was demolished in July 2022 and construction has begun at the location for a living/commercial below building.
 - c. 817 Magnolia - Chris Kraska and Eric Romain took photos of this threatened Mid-Century property. Trees have been torn down and a dumpster has appeared outside indicating redevelopment. Chris added a folder to Drive with the photos.
8. Update from researchers; Eric and Chris
 - a. 1208 E. 12 Mile Rd - Chris Kraska gave an overview of the interesting moving and subdivision of the property. The home is listed in Royal Oak Images and is currently threatened.
 - b. SEMCOG data - Eric Romain shared further analysis of SEMCOG data that he shared at last month's meeting and updated folders in Drive to contain that analysis.
9. Historic Preservation campaign; talks, posters, handouts, etc.; from Leo and all - Leo Derdelakos showed samples of a graphic annual report that the HDSC could put out in the future. Members gave feedback on the design and additional visual ideas.
10. Starr House and the HC; updates from Pat - Plans for the side porch will be redrawn by an architect per the HDC's request. The Civil War Day was well-attended and brought in some appreciated donations.
11. Unfinished Business
 - a. Vinsetta Bridges
 - i. Preliminary report completed and turned into city Planning for review for June
 - ii. Response to Planning department letter; dated May 24th.
 - iii. Public hearing scheduled for July; Carol to confirm
 - iv. Observations of bridge condition from committee members - It appears that construction crews have been careful around the bridges (not parking on them, etc.) and have not continued to park on tree roots. The bridges

remain in good condition except for a few bits of preexisting damage that the HDSC will keep an eye on.

12. New Business

- a. Discuss list of potential new projects
 - i. Letter to owners with fun facts attached.
 1. Grinnell Building - Leslie Snow will finish this letter and bring it to July's meeting for HDSC review before sending out.
 2. Lands Pharmacy; Note architect Yamasaki lecture MHPN webinar - Members discussed approaching the new owner of the building regarding historic designation as it appears a new LLC is now listed.
 3. Northwood Fire House at Northwood & Crooks - Members discussed approaching the City about designating this building as it houses the Royal Oak Historical Museum.
 - b. Google Drive access - Leslie Snow will give Elaine Robinson access to pertinent Google Drive folders for her use for the Historic Context Report. The HDSC should have an update on that in August.
13. Committee member comment - None
14. Adjournment - Rob Duchene made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Patrick Andras. APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm at City Hall.

Minutes recorded by Leslie Snow