



RoyalOak
**HISTORIC DISTRICT
STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Royal Oak Historic District Study Committee
Minutes – October 19, 2023**

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

1. HDSC Call to Order - 7:01 pm
2. Roll Call - Patrick Andras, Leo Derdelakos, Tammis Donaldson, Rob Duchene, Eric Romain, Chris Kraska, Carol Schwanger, Leslie Snow
3. Approval of Agenda – October 19, 2023 - Rob Duchene made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Chris Kraska. APPROVED
4. Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2023 - Patrick Andras made a motion to accept the June minutes, seconded by Chris Kraska. APPROVED
5. Approval of Minutes - September 21, 2023 - Patrick Andras made a motion to accept the September minutes, seconded by Rob Duchene. APPROVED
6. Public Comment - None
7. Historic Preservation Observations in Royal Oak
 - a. Threatened - Magnolia House
 - b. Lost; Worker Home; 123 Knowles. (brown, one story house, 610 SF)
8. Starr House and the HC; updates from Pat Andras - The Historical Commission met on 9/27. Ghost tours at the house have been successful and popular. HC Chairperson has been on a WWJ podcast, bringing attention to the Orson Starr House. Discussion with assistant to City Manager about combining the HC and Historical Society is ongoing. The fence along the Royal Oak Cemetery needs to be fixed.
9. Unfinished Business
 - a. Vinsetta Bridges
 - i. Open meeting synopsis by Pat Andras - See minutes from September 21, 2023 meeting. Chris Kraska noted that more residents since the meeting have come out in support for the bridges' designation.
 - ii. Plan for the City Commission meeting on Mon. 12/11
 1. Prepare letter with explanations and examples
 - a. Include Planning Commission concerns into the ordinance
 - b. Consider adding examples of other green spaces that have historic designation and what those municipalities do. Patrick Andras will look into this.
 - b. Historic Context Report
 - i. Status - Due to Elaine Robinson's illness and passing, Commonwealth is behind. The HDSC will ask about a revised timeline for the report.
10. New Business
 - a. Leo presentation on layout for annual report, brochures, etc. - Leo Derdelakos presented a layout for an HDSC annual report and suggested the use of QR codes to link to this information. He also suggested writing and short small posts that can be used on Instagram and other social media to engage the public.
 - b. New work
 - i. Letter to owners of the Grinnell building review final letter - Rob Duchene will write an introductory paragraph addressing why historic designation is important. Leslie Snow will make the final edits to the letter and send to Carol Schwanger for printing and mailing.
 - ii. Woman's club report; find or re-write?

- iii. WPA Murals & Royal Oak Cemetery - Ongoing discussion regarding gaining permission to study and designate these artifacts/places.
11. Committee member comment
 - a. Berkley Kit Homes tour - Eric Romain attended tour that featured 6 homes.
 - b. Voice Map app - Chris Kraska traveled recently and used Voice Map to take tours. The HDSC might consider using this to create a walking tours (ex: Royal Oak Cemetery or downtown Royal Oak).
 12. Adjournment - Rob Duchene made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Patrick Andras. Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 7:00 pm at City Hall.

Minutes recorded by Leslie Snow