

Minutes

Mt Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, April 17, 2017, 5:03 p.m., Mt Lebanon Municipal Building

ATTENDANCE

Present: Yvette Yescas, Ben Wetmore, Anna Siefken, Joe Bevins, John Bendel, commission liaison, Susan Morgans, staff liaison Absent: Michelle Zmijanac, Jim Martin

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 5:03 p.m.

NEW MEMBER

New member Joe Bevins and the board introduced themselves to each other. Mr. Bevins is an architect with Strada and has works on many historic preservation projects.

CITIZENS COMMENT

There was no citizen comment.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jonathan Hill moved and Anna Siefken seconded the nomination of Yvette Yescas as board chair and Michelle Zmijanac as vice chair for the coming year. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES The board unanimously approved the minutes of the March meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS

Chair

Yvette Yescas had no report.

Commission Liaison Report

John Bendel said the Commission will hear from boards and authorities and nonprofit agencies at an upcoming extended discussion session. The purpose is to get updates from the nonprofits to which the municipality provides partial funding, as well as from the appointed municipal boards and authorities. Susan Morgans has provided the

Commission with background information and also sent copies of this information to Yvette Yescas, who will speak at the meeting.

Staff Liaison Report

Susan Morgans asked that the board form a small committee to help her update informational binder that all members get a copy of, as well as the incomplete/outdated information on the historic preservation board section of the municipal website.

Susan passed out a copy of an article on preservation easements from the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks newsletter. Former member Bill Callahan has said this is an effective method of preserving historic building facades.

Susan suggested that the board narrow the long list of topics that was included on every agenda last year and focus on four or five priorities, some that might be addressed by committee instead of by the entire board. Yvette Yescas asked Joe Bevins to look over the white notebooks from the perspective of a new member and report back as to what was helpful and what might be added. Anna Siefken and Jonathan Hill also will look over the binder.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Brick Streets

Yvette Yescas and Jim Martin continue to reprioritize brick streets and will have a recommended list for preservation at the next meeting. She clarified that they are using the four PennDOT condition categories as a basis, focusing primarily on category three streets. Their goal is to determine which category three streets might be moved up to category two and considered for reconstruction and which could be moved down to category four and not considered for reconstruction. The board will ultimately need some sort of public input process.

Jonathan Hill noted that it is important for the board to do its own research carefully to identify contractors who could do brick reconstruction work if it is bid separately and also are familiar with brick that would be durable even if not exactly like the bricks currently used on our streets.

Economic Development Council

Ben Wetmore's schedule has prevented him from attending meetings in recent months, so he asked to be excused from this assignment. Anna Siefken volunteered to attend in his place.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Historic District Sign

The PHMC did not grant Mt. Lebanon a blue historic marker on the grounds that our National Register District application did not adequately show that our automobile suburb influenced the development of automobile suburbs elsewhere in the state. We are eligible to reapply; Jonathan Hill has not had a callback from the representative from the state who can help us retool the application, but he will try again. On the other hand, the state recommended companies that could manufacture a sign of our own design and wording noting our national historic designation. The board agreed that if it would take a lot of time to redo and resubmit the application to the state, it might be better to create our own sign. Jonathan Hill will chair a committee to look at historic signage in general, including new or adapted entry signs. Ben Wetmore will work with him. They will get cost estimates for various sorts of signs.

The Art Deco Society/World Congress tour is Wednesday, May 24. Susan will talk with Jim Linz, who is coordinating the tour, and board can firm up plans at May 15 meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Design guidelines

Yvette Yescas would like to revisit the Virginia Manor voluntary design guidelines this year and make them applicable to residents of any part of town who may want to make improvements to their properties.

NEXT MEETING: Next meeting is Monday, May 15, at 5 p.m. in the municipal building. John Conti to make his presentation on "What Makes Mt. Lebanon Historic" and Yvette will invite any interested commissioners to attend.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

