

## Minutes

### **Mt Lebanon Historic Preservation Board**

Monday, August 21, 2017, Mt Lebanon Municipal Building

**ATTENDANCE Present:** Yvette Yescas, chair; Michelle Winowich-Zmijanac, Ben Wetmore, Joe Bevins, John Evans, Susan Morgans, staff liaison **Absent:** Anna Siefken, Jonathan Hill, Jim Martin, John Bendel, commission liaison

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Yvette Yescas called meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

No citizen comment.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

July minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Yvette Yescas introduced new member John Evans, an architect with historic preservation experience who has lived in Mt. Lebanon for the past two years. Board members introduced themselves to John.

Yvette thanked outgoing board member Ben Wetmore for his many years of service to the board, including as a member of the original ad hoc committee that created the board. In particular she noted Ben's contributions to the design of the historic markers.

#### **COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT**

No report

#### **STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**

Susan Morgans said t the historic preservation board and historical society will be asked to present on one evening at the community relations board's eight-week Community University program beginning in mid-January. The CRB hopes to be able to visit the history center. Michelle will see if a tour would be possible during construction. First exhibit at the completed center is scheduled for 2018.

Susan Morgans said that she had found out that the Design Center, formerly known as the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, is once again offering Design Consults (formerly known as the Renovation Information Network) by architects on a sliding scale basis to residents and businesses within 20 miles of Pittsburgh. She talked to the program director, who has since left, to confirm this. He said he recently had matched volunteer architects with Mt. Lebanon residents. Susan has been trying unsuccessfully to reach the executive director, Chris Koch to confirm. If she is not able to reach Chris, she will ask Joe Bevins to call as an architect.

### **Historical Society of Mount Lebanon**

Michelle Zmijanic said the annual dinner is at South Hills Country Club on Wednesday, October 25. All HPB member will be invited. Evening will have cocktails, dinner, an auction and a speaker on the year 1969. Berkshire Hathaway is the main event sponsor and in addition to helping to underwrite the dinner will underwrite some of the historic medallions.

A new society board member, Charles Succop, is working on oral histories of some of Mt. Lebanon's longtime residents. He will be videotaping and interviewing. Susan Morgans already has asked Gwyn Cready to interview Kate Simmons, the granddaughter of the Algeos, who opened the first general store/post office in Mt. Lebanon and also owned the property where the Lebanon Lodge once stood. Susan suggested that the Simmons profile go in print in the magazine to call attention to the video series that Mr. Succop is doing. She will connect Gwyn Gready and Charles Succop.

### **Economic Development Council**

No report

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

### **Design Guidelines**

Yvette asked everyone to continue to look at the Virginia Manor Design Guidelines and suggest how they might be adapted. Susan suggested it might be possible to put an introduction on the current guidelines saying that they were specifically designed for Virginia Manor but that many aspects apply to any section of town and then highlight those particular sections.

### **Brick Streets**

Joe Bevins reported on his research on new bricks. There are new bricks that are easily available and are as strong or stronger than old bricks. This is not what the board has heard previously from staff. Ben Wetmore said that the new bricks would probably not work for repair, as they look nothing like the old bricks. They would probably only work for reconstruction. Susan will ask Public Works Director Rudy Sukal to come to the next meeting to talk about the current procedures used to bid, repair, reconstruct brick streets. Michelle Zmijanac says there is a growing demand for brick streets and suggested that a subcommittee from the board get together after talking with Rudy to discuss options. Yvette said this year's situation on Morrison suggests that just because a street pops up on the list for reconstruction does not necessarily mean it needs to be reconstructed. Perhaps some streets could instead be repaired or left alone. Board would like to talk with Rudy about possibility of storing any brick in decent condition that is removed from streets somewhere at the new public works facility. Susan suggested that brick streets be the focus of the board's annual presentation to the commission in 2018. She reminded the board that regardless of how much the commission appreciates the aesthetics of brick, cost always will be a factor.

### **Historic Makers and Signs**

Ben Wetmore volunteered, even though he is leaving the board, to do several versions of signs that might be used to designate Mt Lebanon's historic status. It might be an addition to the existing entry signs. It could be special street signs for the historic district. It could be a new sign that would gradually replace existing signs that are in bad condition. Board agreed that it makes sense to get a design first and then think about locations, based on the type of sign and the estimated cost. Project might need to be phased over two or three years. The board is very grateful to Ben for his continued involvement with this project.

### **Notebook Review**

No report.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is Monday, September 21 at 5 p.m. in the municipal building.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.