



**WASHTENAW COUNTY
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**
www.washtenaw.org/preservation
MEETING AGENDA

DATE: Thursday, May 6, 2021
TIME: 5:30 pm – 7:00pm
PLACE: Zoom: <https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/98714637686>

To contact the Historic District Commission via email, please visit <https://www.washtenaw.org/1943/Historic-District-Commission> and click on the hyperlink name of the commission you wish to contact. There is also an option to contact the whole commission with one email.

Call to Order– Chair

Roll Call – Secretary

Board member Roll Call must include declaration of City/Township/Village, County and State from which they are attending. (i.e. *PRESENT and attending remotely, from City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, Michigan*)

Approval of the Agenda of the Current Meeting – Chair

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting March 4, 2021– Chair

Citizen Participation and Commissioner follow-up – Chair

Business and Reports

• **Staff Report**

- Programming and Promotional materials
 - HistWeb Update project
 - Washtenaw County Historical Consortium
 - CAMP workshop
- Local Historic District Updates
 - Thornoaks new build update
- Certified Local Government Program
 - Northfield Township Survey Update
- Washtenaw County Updates
 - Virtual meetings

• **Treasurer Report**

Items for Discussion

- Commissioner Updates

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 3, 2021 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attachments:

Staff Report

Minutes of the March 4, 2021 Meeting

**Washtenaw County Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes**

DATE:	Thursday, March 4, 2021
TIME:	5:30 pm-7:00 p.m.
PLACE:	Virtual Zoom Meeting

Call to Order

Chair Ralph called the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

Roll Call

- **Commissioners present:** Alec Jerome from Scio Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan; Aprille McKay from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan; Alice Ralph from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan; Katie Remensnyder from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan; Blake Swihart from Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan; Patti Smith from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan; James Mann from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan; and Oliva Davidson from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
- **Commissioners absent:** Peter Kelley
- **Staff:** Melinda Schmidt, Chris Yelonek, and Nathan Voght

Approval of the Agenda of the Current Meeting:

Chair Ralph motioned to approve the agenda of March 4, 2021 Historic District Commission meeting. Commissioner Jerome seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting: January 7, 2021:

Chair Ralph motioned to approve the January 7, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Swihart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Business and Reports: Staff Report

Staff updated the Commission on the following items:

Programming and Promotional Materials

The Storymap companion for the A.P. Marshall Online Oral History Archive is live. It is part of a Ypsilanti District Library Civil Rights virtual exhibit and can be accessed on the library website.

Histweb Update: Staff Yelonek is working on a new project to update HistWeb, the County's GIS-based repository for historic survey data. Staff is working to update HistWeb with the most up to date local historic district, National Register, and historic marker information. Staff will update the non-extant status of demolished buildings, and create a better user interface for the database.

Certified Local Government Program

Northfield Township Survey Update: Staff and preservation specialist Cheri Szcodronski have adjusted the Northfield Township reconnaissance survey schedule. The survey continued in November and December and will resume mid-March. Staff received a draft of the report in early March. Commissioners requested to see the report. Staff will send the draft report to the HDC.

Yearly Report: Staff submitted the required yearly Certified Local Government report for 2020 to SHPO.

Local Historic District Update

Staff updated the commission on the vacant lot in the Thornoaks Neighborhood. Staff has been in contact with the property owner and the builder who will construct the new house in the Thornoaks Neighborhood. Staff provided

background information on the application process and has discussed appropriate design principles with the property owner and the builder. Staff will continue to talk with the builder and reach out to the architect soon.

Current Legislation

In late December, Senate Bill 54 (a bill to reinstate the Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credit) was signed into law. Next steps include creating process and procedure. Staff included a fact sheet included in the packet.

Adjournment: Chair Ralph motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 pm. Vice-chair Jerome seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next HDC meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Virtual Zoom Meeting

DRAFT

Washtenaw County Historic District Commission Staff Report

May 6, 2021

Programming and Promotional materials

- **HistWeb Update:** Phase I of the project is complete. Chris has updated Histweb to include all local historic districts, National Register Listings in the WCHDC jurisdiction, and known Washtenaw County historic markers. During Phase II, Chris will review properties in Histweb from old surveys to confirm they are extant. HistWeb is a GIS database of historic sites within Washtenaw County, specifically in the jurisdiction of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission. The update will add recent survey data to the database, update the non-extant status of demolished buildings, and create a better user interface for the database. Chris Yelonek will complete this project with input from other staff.
- **Washtenaw County Historical Consortium:** The Consortium would like to coordinate bicentennial celebrations across the County in 2022-2026. If an organization you are part of plans to celebrate a bicentennial, please let staff know.
- **CAMP workshop:** The Michigan Historic Preservation Network is hosting a virtual Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) workshop on May 15. If you have not already signed up and are interested in joining, please let staff know.

Local Historic District Update

- **Thornoaks:** Staff has been in contact with the property owner and the builder who will construct the new house in the Thornoaks Neighborhood. Staff provided background information on the application process and has discussed appropriate design principles with the property owner and the builder.

Certified Local Government program

- **Northfield Township Survey Update:** Preservation specialist Szcodronski submitted a draft of the Northfield Township Reconnaissance Survey for review. Staff, SHPO and Northfield Township Historical Society met and discussed the draft in early April. Szcodronski will finish survey this spring. Due to survey delays, the final report submittal has been pushed to mid-July.

Washtenaw County Updates

- **Temporary work situation:** The Office of Community and Economic Development will continue to work remotely. The HDC is able to hold virtual meetings as authorized by the State of Michigan amendment to the Open Meetings Act until December 31, 2021.

Commissioner Project Ideas and Updates:

Please come prepared with any project ideas you would like to share with the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Schmidt, Historic Preservation Specialist

Office of Community & Economic Development

Contact at schmidtm@washtenaw.org or (734) 544-2954