

**FARMINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009**

Chairperson Myers called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Atkinson, Bernath, Gundlach, Munter, Myers

Absent: Baessler, Grattan

Guest: V. Pastue

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Atkinson, supported by Gundlach, to approve the agenda with the addition of Item 4 under old business: review of the Relocation & Demolition policy. Motion carried: all ayes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Munter, supported by Bernath, to approve the minutes of February 26, 2009. Motion carried: all ayes.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was presented by City Manager Pastue. Motion by Munter, supported by Gundlach, to receive and file the financial report. Motion carried: all ayes

WARNER MANSION ACTIVITIES

Commissioner Bernath updated the commission about the open house on April 5, publicity, mansion representation at the first farmer's market and possible school programs.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Response to the proposed demolition of the structure at 32821 Grand River:

Motion by Munter, supported by Atkinson, that the Farmington Historical Commission strongly recommend to the Farmington Planning Commission that, for the following reasons, it does not permit the demolition of the house located at 32821 Grand River:

- Demolition is an extreme and irreversible action.
 - Demolition erodes the physical fabric of, and often adversely affects, a neighborhood.
 - The loss of historic structures is a loss of value to the entire community.
 - One of the things that makes Farmington a unique community are the historic houses on Grand River. (Branding study, 2009)
 - The importance of historic preservation to business owners was stressed by Donovan Rypkema to the DDA and the community.
 - "Farmington's long history can still be seen in the historic buildings and the surrounding neighborhoods, which make up an essential part of the community character." (Master Plan, 2007)
 - The structure helps strengthen the architectural character of a downtown that embraces the historic character of Farmington. (Proposed Master Plan, 2009: pg. 3-1)
 - The structure is an example of exceptional architecture in the downtown area. Rather than demolition, "The Planning Commission needs to carefully consider the renovation to older structures in order to ensure that the historic character of these buildings is retained" (Proposed Master Plan, 2009, pg. 5-7)
 - There does not appear to be any structural instability or deterioration that could cause the building to be unsafe.
 - The structure has not lost its original architectural integrity.
- Motion carried: all ayes.

- 2) Recognition of Dick Carvell's service to the city: City Manager Pastue indicated that there is discussion about adding Commissioner Carvell's name to the civic leaders plaque located in council chambers.
- 3) Update to City Master Plan: It was decided to hold a study session on Wed., April 8 at 7:00 P.M. to formalize the commission's suggestions for the properties on the northwest corner of Warner St. and Thomas St. Recommendations from that session will be immediately forwarded to the city manager's office.
- 4) Relocation and demolition policy: Commissioner Gundlach suggested some minor changes in some of the language. Changes were made without discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Huntington Woods Master Plan: Commissioner Gundlach presented five goals of preservation contained in the Huntington Woods Master Plan and suggested that we ask that these goals be incorporated in the proposed revision of the Farmington Master Plan. It was agreed that this would be an item of discussion at the April 8 study session.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Myers at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
D. Munter, Secretary