

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission
MINUTES
Athens City Hall, First Floor Conference Room
February 18, 2019 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order—Board chair Keith Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Members present include Keith Chapman, Cyrus Moore, Mary Ann Reeves, Pam Callahan, and Richard Vedder. Members Guy Philips and John Valentour were absent. Guests included Ada Woodson Adams, Patricia Wilson Thomas, Sue Righi, and Tee Ford-Ahmed. Paul Logue recorded minutes.

2. Disposition of Minutes- The minutes from January 2019 was reviewed by the commission. With no additions or corrections noted Mr. Vedder made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

3. Next Meeting—March 11, 2019

4. Old Business

A. St. Paul's—Vedder reported that Fr. Moore supports May 12 for a marker dedication event. Need to have plaque prepared prior to that time.

B. Board brochure—will be discussed in March meeting.

C. Prisley Award (Marge Stone letter)—Paul distributed copies of the letter he received from Marge Stone regarding preservation efforts. Commission members briefly discussed her recommendation that they consider 29 Park Place as a worthy candidate for an award.

5. New Business

A. Mt. Zion Preservation Society update (Trevellya Ford-Ahmed)—Dr. Ford provided a presentation for the board regarding Mt. Zion. She is a board member for the society. It was built by free born and previous slave African Americans in the early 1900s. It is one of the only examples of African American built buildings in Southeast Ohio. Possible uses for the building include black cultural center, meeting spaces, social center, and library. The MZPS is looking at a Historic Revitalization Sub-grant opportunity from the US Department of Interior. They are looking for a fiscal sponsor for the grant. The program is for more than one building. Grant covers architectural, engineering, and construction. Members and guests discussed a "Heritage District"—including Armory, Mt. Zion, and SE Ohio History Center. The commission is interested in exploring this further as the city being the fiscal agent. Mr. Logue noted that follow-up will be needed to confirm the city's willingness to do this. Vedder motioned to proceed with the city as fiscal agent. Ms. Callahan seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion was approved. Logue will check in with Mayor Patterson and Council President Knisely on this matter.

B. Christopher Davis Community Remembrance Project (Sue Righi)—Ms. Righi introduced herself to the board. She is active with the Equal Justice Initiative. She provided a summary document on their program. The lynching of Christopher Davis occurred at old South Bridge in 1881, one of 15 known lynchings in Ohio. They are creating a National Lynching Memorial across the US with markers. Organizers include Righi, Ada Woodson Adams, Pat Thomas, Tom O’Grady, Katherine Jellison, and Tee Ford-Ahmed. Looking to partner to collect soil and place a marker near the site. Soil will be part of a national installation in Montgomery AL of soils collected from sites across the US. Possible marker locations were discussed. They are asking for a letter of support from the preservation board. Moore stated that he is willing to draft a letter if the board is interested in supporting this. Moore motioned to submit a letter of support from the preservation board, Ms. Reeves seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

C. Historic signs grant—to be discussed next month.

6. Announcements and Updates

Logue reminded the members that there is an all-city boards and commissions members meeting tomorrow evening at 5 PM at the Athens Community Center.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Chapman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:45PM. Reeves seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue