

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission
Minutes
January 11, 2021 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order—Vice Chair John Vallentour called the meeting to order at 5:32PM. Members present include John Vallentour, Pam Callahan, Guy Philips, Richard Vedder, Cyrus Moore, Mark Snider, and Mary Anne Reeves, who joined later into the meeting. Quorum was established. Non-commission members present include city planner Paul Logue and city intern Lauren Conner.

2. Disposition of Minutes Guy Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Richard Vedder seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

3. Next Meeting—February 8, 2021 5:30PM

4. Old Business

A. Prisley Award – Mary Anne Reeves reported that she is not finished writing the history portion of the church. Guy Philips asks if the commission is working on the wordage for the plaque and reminds the writer to make sure the wordage is short. Paul Logue says that Mayor Patterson was happy to hear that the Prisley Award is moving forward.

B. Ridges/Pilcher House – Guy shares that three people had already put in bids. He said that he would try to reach out to the new owners if possible and tell them about the great things that can be done to the building with the help of the Historic Preservation Commission. Paul clarifies that the Pilcher House is included in the national historic district. Guy shares that there are limitations on what changes can be done to the building based on the requirements of the bid.

Pam reported that she was involved in a panel with the Development VP at the University and President Nellis that was an invitation to alumni to talk about The Ridges. Pam has not drafted the board letter to the President and the Board of Trustees showing alarm with the state of the roof condition of the Western Wing of The Ridges yet. She doesn't think the timing is right. The building is still structurally sound but may cost several hundreds of thousands of dollars for protective covering over the holes in the roof, and potentially a couple million dollars to replace the roof entirely. Paul noted that the goal of Ridges outreach is to gain better connections with the university and get conversations moving across the state about options for funding sources. University staffers are not as aware of the bigger preservation community in the state and region as many others in the Athens area are and the university is asking for assistance in making those connections.

5. New Business

A. Capital Budget- Richard Vedder reported that every 2 years the state has a capital budget bill where funds become available to Ohio communities for historical preservation efforts. He suggests meeting with Mt. Zion and propose a budget with the Historical Preservation commission and submit to receive funding from the capital budget. The application requires letters of support from state senators and representatives. Richard recommends that Athens apply to receive funds whether it is for Mt. Zion church or the Armory after seeing the word "historical" in the capital budget fund. Mary Anne shares that the state representatives are the ones that start this process. Richard expresses that it may be important for the Historic Preservation commission members to reach out and ask if it is something for

Athens to look into. Paul shared that the Capital budget bill was approved last month and \$625,000 was already allocated to various projects across Athens County. John reminded the commission members that this is funding that Athens people need to push for the next time funding is available. Paul Logue shared a link from Representative Edwards Ohio House website:

<https://www.ohiohouse.gov/members/jay-edwards/news/edwards-announces-capital-budget-bill-104814>.

6. Announcements and Updates

A. Stuart McDonald Building - Guy asked for an update on the Stuart McDonald building. Paul said that the building has been approved to be listed on the National Registry.

B. Historic Preservation Commission Informational brochure - Pam asked if the Historic Preservation commission should update their brochure. John thinks it would be very helpful information for the community to understand what the historic preservation commission is and what the application process looks like for construction and renovations. Paul offered to email local architects to update them on what codes have passed and to invite them to upcoming Historical Preservation meetings if they have any additional questions. John suggests making a digital copy of the brochure to easily send to anyone with questions or looking for additional information.

Pam moved that she does the work to update the brochure. Guy seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

7. Adjournment with all agenda items satisfied and no additional business or announcements, Mary Anne motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Conner (City Planning Intern)