

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 19, 2010 @ 3:30 p.m.**

**City Hall Conference Room # 2**

**85 South Main Street, Oberlin, Ohio**

**Members Present:** Jane Blodgett, Carol Ganzel, Pat Murphy and Elizabeth Tisher

**Members Absent:** Lynda Khoury

**Others Present:** Tita Reed, Economic Development & Housing Officer and Sandra Phillips, Staff Support

Blodgett called this meeting of the Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission to order at approximately 3:38 p.m.

**I. OLD BUSINESS**

**a) Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2009**

Murphy moved to approve minutes as amended. Ganzel seconded. Vote passed.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS**

**a) Introduction of new member: Elizabeth (Lizzie) Tisher**

Tisher told the Commission that she received an M. S. in historic preservation from the University of Vermont in 2006. Prior to relocating to Oberlin last February, she was the senior architectural historian at the College of William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research in Williamsburg, Virginia. Tisher said she is currently working as an independent historic preservation consultant.

**b) Election of Officers**

Blodgett as Chair and Elizabeth Tisher as Vice-Chair. Vote passed.

**c) Underground Railroad Update –**

No report.

**d) Programs/Announcements – Pat Murphy**

Murphy said there will be a program tonight at 7:00 p.m. at Heiser Auditorium at Kendal, "Cleveland Goes Modern".

There will be two programs this spring. On Wednesday, March 24, 2010 @ 7 p.m., Oberlin Public Library - Kerry Adams, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist at the Cleveland Restoration Society presents Planning Your Home Rehab Project. Whether

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your home is 50 years old or 150 years old this session will help you learn how to plan your home rehab project, decide what parts you should and should not undertake on your own and choose and work with the right contractors, and review bids.

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 @ 7 p.m., Oberlin Public Library – Kerry Adams, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist at the Cleveland Restoration Society, presents The Greenest House is Already Built: Preservation and Sustainability in Your Older Home. The program is to help homeowners to discover simple things that owners of homes that are 50 years old or older can do to make their houses more energy efficient and environmentally sensitive. You can be “green” without changing the historic character of your home or breaking your budget.

Murphy said these events are free and co-sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center, the Cleveland Restoration Society, the City of Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission and the Lorain County Preservation Network.

Murphy gave new brochures from the Heritage Home Program and asked if they could be sent out with notices of spring programs to the landmark owners.

Murphy asked if Reed could find out if the 2010 budget for the Historical Landmark Survey has been cut.

Blodgett informed the Commission of the conference of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on July 28, 2010 – August 1, 2010 and the City will pay for the registration fee.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Placement of three (3) more Preserve America signs

Blodgett said she would like the Commission members to be involved in the placement of the signs. The remaining places are the north entrance on North Main Street, the south entrance on South Main Street and the west side of town on West Lorain Street.

- b) Contacts with possible new landmark owners

Blodgett said she would send emails to residents on Oak Street. Ganzel said she would send a reminder letter to the Pierce residents at 237 Oak Street and also a follow-up with Cynthia Comer at 74 South Cedar Street.

Blodgett told the Commission she would like to work on a revised booklet of historic landmarks this year to include all of the new landmarks.

- c) Discuss a possible letter about saving & restoring buildings in the proposed “Green Arts District”

Blodgett asked if the same letter that was used a couple of years ago could be sent to

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Steve Varelmann, Facilities Planning & Construction Office at Oberlin College and Sandra Hodge, Oberlin College's Special Assistant For Community And Government Relations and the New Architectural Firm. Reed suggested just giving Sandra Hodge a call to see if the architects could come to a meeting and talk to us. Blodgett agreed to call her.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Applications for new landmark status – Eugenia Bobo, 169 Shipherd Circle and Marjorie & Norman Henderson, 116 Shipherd Circle

Murphy moved to approve the houses at 169 Shipherd Circle, Eugenia Bobo and 116 Shipherd Circle, Marjorie & Norman Henderson for landmark status. Ganzel seconded. Vote passed.

- b) Survey from the National Alliance of Preservation Commission

Blodgett told the Commission it took an hour to complete the survey. Some of the questions asked on the survey were:

- Is there a preservation plan
- HPC authority to require minimum maintenance
- Is there a policy concerning demolition by neglect
- Are design guidelines available to community (Secretary of Interior Standards)

Next meeting: January 19, 2010

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Jane Blodgett (S. Phillips)  
Jane Blodgett, Chair  
Historic Preservation Commission

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Sandra Phillips  
Sandra Phillips  
Staff Support