



## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, August 24, 2010 @ 3:30 p.m.**

**City Hall Conference Room # 2**

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

**Members Present:** Jane Blodgett; Carol Ganzel; Pat Murphy; Lynda Khoury and Elizabeth Tisher

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Scott Broadwell, Council Liaison and Tita Reed, Economic Development & Housing Officer; Sandra Phillips, Secretary to the Historic Preservation Commission

Blodgett called this meeting of the Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission to order at approximately 3:32 p.m.

### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **a) Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2010 & August 3, 2010 (Special Meeting)**

Khoury made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ganzel seconded. Vote passed.

### **II. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS**

#### **a) UGRR Committee Update – Scott Broadwell**

Broadwell told the Commission that the fundraising kickoff for the Gasholder Building is going to be held on Saturday, September 11, 2010, with George Abrams, the Master of Ceremony reading a little history of the roundhouse. The building will be open for the public to view. Also Sigrid Boe and Barbara Mehwald have been working on donation forms to give out, with the different levels of giving. Reed asked if there are restricted donations to a specific activity of the project. Broadwell said he was not sure how they were handling the donations, but he would bring it up at the next planning meeting. Murphy asked if the donations would be made to the City for the Underground Railroad project. Broadwell said the donations should be going to the Implementation Team, but the organization needs to come up with a name.

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Broadwell told the Commission that the funding from NOACA will be here in 2011 and the City will be giving their financial support. Murphy asked if the City will continue to support the project. Broadwell said that City Council will probably develop an ordinance to continue the support.

Broadwell told the Commission that Margaret Christian, Oberlin resident came to the City Council meeting on July 6, 2010, after the vandalism of the cemetery, to stress her concerns about the condition of the cemetery and the upkeep. Ms. Christian and a group of volunteers would like to start cleanup and stone restoration, so Broadwell told her he would inform the Historic Preservation Commission of her interest. Ms. Christian had a restoration seminar on gravestone cleaning April 19, 2010, at Oberlin Public Library. She had Ralph Hayes, Pittsfield Township Trustee who has had some restoration training, to direct the seminar. Mr. Haze is also involved in the Pittsfield Township Cemetery restoration. Murphy told the Commission that there will be restoration training in Bedford, in three weeks. Also Murphy said she spoke to Dennis Cuthbertson, Buildings & Grounds Superintendent and Darlene Colaso, Assistant City Manager/Human Resource Administrator about the issue of volunteers working in the cemetery and drafting a notice about what volunteers can and cannot do at the cemetery. A policy needs to be in place for use of volunteers and the possible liability. The City needs to provide leadership and training for the staff before doing any work to the stones and the Commission members should also be involved.

Blodgett said the driveway in the Cemetery has pot holes, the pond needs cleaning, and the landscaping needs to be done.

b) Design Review Subcommittee Update – Lynda Khoury

Khoury on information received from Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA). They will be doing renovations to each of the pagoda houses on Berger Court, similar to renovations completed on the pagoda house on South Main Street. There will also be some landscaping done as well.

c) Discuss trip to the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus on Thursday, September 30, 2010

Blodgett told the Commission that she would be attending the Conference along with Ganzel and Leo Evans.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Progress Report on Landmarks Booklet – Jane Blodgett &/or Carol Ganzel

Ganzel said she and Blodgett finished the landmarks booklet and it is in the hands of Dave Meeker as of August 23, 2010. We still have to give Meeker the locations of houses on the map. Blodgett thanked Tisher for her photos of architectural elements for the cover, and Khoury as the graphics/project coordinator for the booklet.

The Commission agreed to order 1,000 landmarks booklets.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Discuss Lizzie Tisher's proposal for a long-term program on mid-century modern architecture and the cultural landscape

Tisher said she has done background research, field research, of the College Park neighborhood that includes Shipherd Circle, Caskey Court and Stewart Court. She found that while walking through the neighborhood that ninety percent (90%) of the buildings are still the same. There were two (2) properties that were built after 1970s. There have not been many major alterations, a few had repairs done, but the homes have been pretty well preserved. The details of the themes are the same and could be part of a potential nomination for the National Register down the road, should the neighborhood be interested. Also this neighborhood is an example of the mid-century period, as a 1950s automobile suburb, where there are no sidewalks.

Murphy said it would be a good idea to get a form from the State Preservation office in order to get feedback from them before doing the work toward registration of this district. The Preservation office would advise whether they believe this area has potential, whether it should be a district, or should it be a district to host a large area or a small area. Murphy said she thought it would be good to go through that process first before getting the residents all excited about being on the National Register District and then finding out that it will not happen. Tisher said she was going to contact the office to get the timeline on the different steps to take. She hopes this will help to get residents of this area to become local Oberlin landmark owners. Broadwell asked if there is a percentage of owners needed to be considered to be on the registry. Tisher said it is not a cut and dry percentage, you usually need a majority, and it depends on how significant the area is.

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**V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Jane Blodgett/S. Phillips  
Jane Blodgett, Chair

9,28,10

Historic Preservation Commission Chair

Sandra Phillips  
Sandra Phillips

Secretary to the Historic Preservation Commission