

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021 AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN

Chairman Finkel called a regular meeting of the Mackinac Island Historic District to order at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Lee Finkel, Andrew Doud (Zoom), Lorna Straus, Alan Sehoian, Nancy Porter (Zoom)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Zoning Administrator, Dennis Dombroski, Architect, Richard Neumann (via Zoom), Attorney, Gary Rentrop (via Zoom)

Motion by Sehoian, seconded by Finkel to approve as amended, and place on file the minutes of the regular meeting Tuesday, May 11, 2021. The amendment was to combine the last two sentences of the Arches Software Agenda Item to read "In addition Rentrop would like to reach out to the Community Foundation for other possible sources of funds and will compose a letter, with the help of Straus, to the Committee and submit to the Community Foundation". All in favor. Motion carries.

Motion by Sehoian, seconded by Straus to approve as amended and place on file the Agenda. The amendments were to add "SB 446 and HB 4722" to *New Business* and "Verizon Update" to *Old Business*. All in favor. Motion carries.

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Gary Rentrop Statement (April 10)**

Rentrop summarized his current statement. Straus asked Rentrop if any other communities have asked how Mackinac Island is handling the cellular companies' applications. Rentrop has not been contacted by other communities but has spoken with people from MHPN. Rentrop will update the Commission if he has any inquiries.

- **Job Status Report**

Straus asked about the expired projects that still remain on the report. Pereny informed her if a project has begun before the expiration date, the project remains as active until complete. If a project does not start prior to the expiration date, it is marked as expired. Pereny is to review the report to make sure it is all up to date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Arches Software – Alan Sehoian**

Sehoian gave an update on the Arches Committee progress. A letter was sent to Eastern Michigan regarding interns but have not heard back yet. A website name has been created with the help of Eugenia Murray McGinnis. www.historicmackinac.org. McGinnis is to come up with some logos to choose from. It was determined if Eastern Michigan did not respond, Arches would step back and pursue again next year. Straus stated that November or December is the appropriate time to start the search for interns. The next meeting is June 16, 2021

STAFF REPORTS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Verizon & T-Mobile – Gary Rentrop**

Rentrop stated that the Chippewa, Harrisonville and Mission Point locations are all on hold as Verizon is changing their plan and the new plan has not gone through the proper channels. Rentrop stated that there seems to be a lot of confusion with the T-Mobile group in the beginning showing antennas on the Chippewa. . Andrew Smith of T-Mobile will do what we need. Three antennas are being removed from the existing 6. There will be a taller antenna installed. A faux parapet will hide the taller antenna. The City of Mackinac Island needs to see all cellular providers plans before the submit to SHPO for a section 106 review. in that once the plans are submitted to SHPO a 30 day time clock starts for the City's comment. If SHPO does not make a decision within this 30-day time period the plans are deemed approved. SHPO has an earlier plan from T-Mobile and has not acted upon it. T-Mobile is not now asserting the plans were approved because of SHPOs failure to timely act and has agreed to prepare new plans addressing the City's concerns. Straus asked if SHPO is aware of the different versions submitted by Verizon not being seen by the City. Rentrop stated no but Verizon has, with the exception of Lilac, withdrawn its application to SHPO on the Chippewa, Harrisonville, and Mission Point. Straus thinks it is important to let City Council know what is going on. Dombroski will inform the Council that there is a concern on the part of this Commission that the City Agreement and SHPO are not on track.

NEW BUSINESS

- **C21-066-033(H) Deckert – Starline Dock Repairs**

Dombroski stated that the applicant will be doing storm damage repairs that include decking, install new steel grating in the storm-prone washout area, add an extra steel rail along both sides of the dock and install new sign poles at the head of the dock. Neumann submitted a favorable review. Motion by Sehojan, second by Straus, to approve the application as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: Doud, Finkel, Sehojan, Straus, Porter. Nays: None. All in favor. Motion carries.

- **C21-066-034(H) Mary's Bistro Awning Removal**

The applicant would like to remove all the existing awnings on the back deck of Mary's Bistro. The applicant will be using patio umbrellas instead. Neumann submitted a favorable review. Motion by Straus, second by Finkel to approve the application. Roll call vote: Ayes: Doud, Finkel, Straus, Porter. Nays: None. Sehojan abstained. All in favor. Motion carries.

- **SB 446 & HB 4722 re: Short Term Rentals**

Finkel stated there are a pair of bills that would remove the City's ability to regulate short term rentals. Finkel suggested that the HDC unanimously oppose the two bills. Straus wanted to see the

bills she is being asked to oppose. Dombroski stated that Planning Commission and City Council have already submitted letters opposing the bills. Michael Straus clarified that the bills would cause us to lose local control on short term rentals. (anything less than 30 days). The bills have some real traction because they are backed by realtors. Motion by Doud, second by Porter, to write a letter of opposition to SB 446 and HB 4722, from the HDC. Roll call vote: Ayes: Doud, Finkel, Sehojan, Straus, Porter. Nays: None. All in favor. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Fortino asked if the HDC was going to deliberate the emergency order ending June 14th allowing remote voting. Any voting member must be present at the meeting. Attorneys and the public may still participate via Zoom. Motion by Sehojan, second by Porter to meet in person with the exception of council and the public who may appear via Zoom. Roll call vote: Ayes: Finkel, Doud, Sehojan, Porter, Straus. Nays: None. All in favor. Motion carries.

Rentrop stated that he and Neumann will not charge for travel if they do come to the meetings.

With no further business there was a Motion by Doud, second by Sehojan to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm.



Lee Finkel, Chairman



Katie Pereny, Secretary