



RoyalOak  
**HISTORIC DISTRICT  
STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Royal Oak Historic District Study Committee  
Minutes - January 17, 2019**

Mahany/Meininger Senior Community Center - 3500 Marais Ave, Royal Oak, MI 48073

1. Call to order – 7:05 pm
2. Attendance – Ruth Cleaveland, Tammis Donaldson, Rob Duchene, Jim Keillor, Chris Kraska, Barb Randau, Leslie Snow  
Absent: Pat Andras (Historical Commission)  
Guest: James Krizan (Assistant to the City Manager)
3. Approval of December minutes – Jim Keillor made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Rob Duchene. APPROVED
4. Treasurer’s Report
  - a. Rob Duchene is working on getting a more precise dollar amount for what remains in our account. The amount is currently listed under the HC account, and it would be preferable for the HDSC to be able to see our own accounting.
  - b. Leslie Snow submitted a receipt for \$31.16 for copies of the HDSC plaque letter to be sent to owners of designated properties.
5. Election of Officers – Tammis Donaldson made a motion for members to maintain the same positions they hold, seconded by Jim Keillor. APPROVED.
6. Public Comment – John Wendland shared pictures and two binders of newspaper clippings and pictures detailing the history of the Farmers Market from 1925-2012. Members will review the binders on loan from John and return them to him when we are finished. The HDSC will provide John a copy of the final report when the study is completed.
7. Historical Commission Report – None
8. Unfinished Business
  - a. Final draft of letter to owners of historically designated properties – Rob Duchene made a motion to approve the letter as written, seconded by Jim Keillor. APPROVED. Rob Duchene will send out the letters.
  - b. Website status – Leslie Snow edited basic basic information on the HDSC webpage page and is awaiting approval of those changes by Judy Davids. Leslie will also be talking with Judy Davids regarding adding pages/tabs to the page and report storage and sharing space through the City.
  - c. Report by members of visit to the Royal Oak Farmers Market on Friday, January 11, 2019 to review the components of the building for authenticity – The following observations were discussed by HDSC members:
    - The building itself as more of a “shed” may not be architecturally significant (in terms of style), but age and percentage of original materials (structure, roof, floor) qualify
    - Some materials are not consistent on exterior walls (differing ages of bricks and cement blocks) and will be researched
    - The fact that it was designed by an engineer employee of the City of Royal Oak is notable; also that it was one of the first markets to require vendors grow their own food
    - Members discussed that the significance to the culture and community of Royal Oak are what make the Farmers Market notable—it is a place for agricultural, artistic, social, entertainment and resale activity, in addition to democratic purposes (it is a polling place, petitions are often circulated, and

local/regional civic figures use the Market as a place to informally interact with constituents)

- d. Review of materials researched by Barb Randau and Chris Kraska regarding the Harrison property – Chris Kraska shared a packet of information and pictures that detail the evolution of the buildings and property on Washington (in relation to the Dondeo family), currently owned by the Harrisons

9. New Business

- a. Discuss parking at the Farmers Market – The HDSC strongly urges that the City maintain as much surface parking as possible at the Farmers Market in order to facilitate ease of access for shoppers to the Market (who are vitally important in helping the Market and vendors to thrive financially).
- b. Notification to market vendors and public regarding the status of the HDSC study of the market – The HDSC will be working on writing an update regarding the progress of the Committee on the study so that it can be posted in the Market, communicated to the vendors, and shared with the citizens of Royal Oak. Ideas including having the Market manager post an update on the Facebook page and the Royal Oak Review.
- c. List of meeting dates for 2019 (no meetings in July or August unless needed) – January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, September 19, October 17, November 21, December 19

10. Motion to Adjourn – Rob Duchene made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Kraska.  
APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting: February 21, 2019

Minutes recorded by Leslie Snow