

# Michigan State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes January 19, 2024

## Minutes of the State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting

**Friday, January 19, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

*Lake Michigan Room, Michigan Economic Development Corporation  
300 North Washington Square, Lansing, Michigan 48913*

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dean Anderson, Devan Anderson, Daniel Bollman, Matthew Daley (10:25), Lane Demas, Sharon Ferraro (10:20), Lakota Hobia, Krysta Ryzewski

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ronald Staley (pre-excused)

### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Amy Arnold, Kate Frederick, Martha MacFarlane-Faes, Nathan Nietering, Ryan Schumaker, Sarah Surface-Evans, Todd Walsh, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Jon Stuckey, Austin Wright, Michigan Office of the Attorney General (AG)

### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

From list.

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Acting Board Chair Krysta Ryzewski called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda of the January 19, 2024 regular board meeting.

Motion: Demas

Second: Dean Anderson

Vote: 6-0

#### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 22, 2023**

Board Comments: None

Motion to approve the minutes as proposed.

Motion: Devan Anderson

Second: Demas

Vote: 6-0

#### **4. APPROVAL OF 2024 MEETING DATES**

Proposed dates for consideration: May 17, 2024, September 20, 2024, January 17, 2025

Board Comments: Hobia asked if the meeting dates must always be in May, September and January, since May is generally a busy month in the preservation world. Demas noted that those on the board who are in education tend to do a lot of traveling during the summer break. Ryzewski commented that October is Archaeology Month which tends to be heavy on events, but Fridays would probably still work. Walsh stated that no meeting is typically more heavy or lighter than any others in terms of preparation. May, September and January have been meeting months for many years, but meetings do not need to fall in these specific months.

Motion to approve the meeting dates as proposed.

Motion: Devan Anderson

Second: Hobia

Vote: 6-0

#### **5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Devan Anderson was nominated to serve as the vice-chair, and he accepted.

Motion to elect Devan Anderson to serve as vice-chair.

Motion: Bollman

Second: Dean Anderson

Vote: 6-0

#### **6. SHPO STAFF REPORTS**

##### **a. SHPO Report – Ryan Schumaker and Martha MacFarlane-Faes**

Schumaker introduced Kate Frederick as SHPO's newest archaeologist, working exclusively with Section 106 review projects. She previously taught at Olivet College. The fiscal year 2024 grant deadline for the Certified Local Government (CLG) program is February 2 and there has already been strong interest in submitting applications. Two CLG applications have been submitted by SHPO to the National Park Service for certification: Flat Rock, Wayne County, and Norwood Township, Charlevoix County. These would be Michigan's 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> CLG communities. Boyne City has officially repealed its local historic district ordinance and disbanded its historic district commission, which will trigger their removal from the CLG program.

(Ferraro arrives 10:20)

For the Section 106 program, SHPO signed a programmatic agreement with USDA-rural development for a single family housing program to help expedite their reviews. Four memorandum of agreements are also in the works for a variety of transportation related projects. SHPO also has an established process

now where SHPO items can be on the consent agenda for Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) meetings, which makes it simpler when such agreements are being approved. Section 106 staff also toured the Soo Locks in October to gain a better understanding of the lock complex and the new lock construction. SHPO is also co-hosting a training for Section 106 consultants at Wayne State University in March. Registration will open by the end of January.

Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program grant applications were due in late November and we are presently reviewing those and making funding decisions. For the State Tax Credit program, so far for 2024 seven small commercial applications and two residential applications have already been submitted. SHPO is strategically thinking about how to better market the residential credit to potential applicants and would appreciate others also sharing information about the residential tax credit opportunity.

MacFarlane-Faes noted that if stakeholders hear feedback about reticence in applying for the tax credit, or following through on an application that has been started, SHPO would be interested in learning that feedback as well. Two additional staff positions are in the process of hiring: a Community Preservation Coordinator will oversee the CLG program and local historic district outreach, and interviews are presently underway. We are also advertising an entry-level architect position to provide support for incentive programs and Section 106 reviews.

(Daley arrives 10:25)

MacFarlane-Faes continued that she is leading the creation of an outreach plan for the office in 2024 to help determine which communities and audiences we serve and how to most effectively engage with those groups. March 4-7 is also preservation advocacy week in Washington DC. This year Michigan does not have a large contingent attending this year, but MacFarlane-Faes will be attending to provide information about preservation work in Michigan.

b. Archaeology Report – Sarah Surface-Evans

Surface-Evans highlighted Dr. Mike Hambacher's retirement last fall and that the position was quickly advertised, with a large applicant pool. Six interviews for highly qualified candidates were held and Kate accepted the position. Fiscal Year 2023 closed with 281 new archaeological sites identified in 46 counties. More than 3300 acres were surveyed for archaeological sites in FY 23 as a result of Federal undertakings. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) work continues for SHPO controlled cases that are held at the University of Michigan and SHPO controlled cases in state collections in Lansing.

October was Michigan Archaeology Month and SHPO advertised state-wide archaeology events and offered public talks to audiences around the state. We also released the 2023 Archaeology Month poster which featured the Fort Saint Joseph Archaeology Project, which celebrated 25 years of excellent public archaeology this year. The poster is also available online on a special webpage

which builds on the material highlighted on the poster for a wider learning experience. SHPO Archaeologists continue to offer trainings to state and federal agencies, consultants, and other stakeholders. We recently assisted the Ottawa National Forest with their paraprofessional training. Upcoming this spring we will be conducting guest lectures at Wayne State University, holding a SHPO consultant training, and presenting two archaeology sessions at the upcoming Michigan Historic Preservation Network conference in Kalamazoo. Work has already begun on the 2024 Archaeology Month poster. We plan to feature Traditional Cultural Places/Landscapes on this poster and have sent out calls for Indigenous Artists to create visual representations for the poster.

c. **2024 Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation – Nathan Nietering**

4 projects were proposed to receive Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation.

Board Comments: None.

Motion to accept and recommend 3 proposed awardees as presented

Motion: Demas

Second: Daley

Vote: 8-0

Motion to accept and recommend 1 proposed awardee as presented

Motion: Hobia

Second: Ferraro

Vote: 7-0

Recused: Ryzewski

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE**

Summary of Correspondence:

Individual letters of support were received in support of several nominations. No letters of objections were received.

Summary of Public Comment:

None.

## **8. NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS**

a. **Washington Apartments, Lansing, Ingham County**

Presented by Matt Wicklund

Board Comments: Ferraro acknowledged that she enjoys seeing the creative ways Murphy beds are employed in the building. She asked Wicklund if there is a rehabilitation plan for the building. Wicklund responded that formal plans are not yet finalized but the goal is to create up to 70 rental units in the building. Dean Anderson inquired about the period of significance under Criterion A and if it

might extend through the period of occupancy of the building, rather than up to the zoning ordinance which currently defines the period. Ferraro acknowledged that if the period were extended, it might make the zoning change a more important part of the story. Daley voice support for this, where the apartment building was built primarily for local auto workers, whereas in other communities such as Detroit, the housing shortage was addressed by building acres of small single family homes. Dean Anderson suggested reviewing the early Lansing and industrial history section for more appropriate wording regarding Native American occupation in the region before White settlement, and statements about the capital moving from Detroit due to British-, not French-controlled Canada. Ryzewski asked Walsh if the board wished to change the period of significance, how that should be worded in a motion. Walsh responded that the motion would indicate the period of significance be reviewed in light of board comments.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented with a review of the period of significance

Criteria and Level: A&C, local

Motion: Bollman

Second: Ferraro

Vote: 8-0

**b. Oak Ridge Cemetery, Buchanan, Berrien County**

Presented by Kurt Garner

Board Comments: Hobia suggested there may be Native settlements and burials in the vicinity due to the proximity to the St. Joseph River and including this information would help better tell the history of land use in this area. She suggested reaching out to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Pokagon Band for their input in this section. Ferraro added that the undulating landscape was somewhat difficult to tell if it is natural in formation or may have been formed by humans. Ferraro continued that the sexton's cottage appears to be contributing to this nomination but the photograph included in the nomination is far away, and perhaps another more close-up photo could be used to better illustrate this building. Ryzewski noted that the language which states how the cemetery meets National Register criterion D is well-written, but the nomination isn't actually under criterion D. Hobia acknowledged there might be confusion between criterion D and criterion consideration D, two separate things. Walsh indicated this would be reviewed for consistency and accuracy.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented with consideration of the board comments as discussed.

Criteria and Level: A&C, local

Motion: Ferraro

Second: Devan Anderson

Vote: 8-0

**c. Hayes Hotel, Jackson, Jackson County**

Presented by Nate Curwen

Board Comments: None.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented.

Criteria and Level: A&C, local

Motion: Demas

Second: Devan Anderson

Vote: 8-0

**d. Capri Drive-In, Batavia Township, Branch County**

Presented by Rachel Bankowitz

Board Comments: Demas commended the level of statewide analysis on the development of drive-ins in the nomination and inquired if state level of significance would be appropriate. Walsh agreed and responded that it might require some statewide comparisons if nominated at the state level, which might require additional research and legwork. Dean Anderson appreciated the overview of drive-ins and also commented that it was great to see that the Capri sign was considered contributing. Dean noted there is a reference to 'Manistee' in the upper peninsula, which probably should be 'Manistique.' Walsh confirmed this would be reviewed. Hobia added that should would strongly support the consideration state level significance, as the Capri actually has a much larger appeal than just the local community.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented at the state level of significance.

Criteria and Level: A, state

Motion: Dean Anderson

Second: Hobia

Vote: 8-0

**e. Vicksburg Union Depot, Vicksburg, Kalamazoo County**

Presented by Leah Richard

Board Comments: Bollman commented on how nicely the station has been maintained and noted the unusual shape of the footprint of the building, highlighting how valuable it is to interpreting the union depot story that period railroad rolling stock is on exhibit where the north-south railroad line used to be. Hobia appreciated the discussion of the Nottawaseppi Band occupation in the area but suggested some language might be reworded. Ferraro commended the nomination and wished the water tower were still standing.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented.

Criteria and Level: A&C, local

Motion: Hobia

Second: Bollman  
Vote: 8-0

**f. William Moore House, Caro, Tuscola County**

Presented by Cheri Szcodronski

Board Comments: Ferraro asked about visiting the property. Szcodronski responded that as part of the National Register listing, the present owners do want to offer a tour and history presentation event, probably in the summer. Demas noted that the pool is absolutely massive, by both current and historical standards, and inquired if any research had been done comparing it to the scale of other pools of the time period. Szcodronski responded that comparative research suggests it is one of the largest pools in the country, but verification is difficult beyond oral tradition. But a discussion of the comparison could certainly be included in the nomination for informational purposes. Ryzewski asked if Moore had gadgets to pump and maintain the water. Szcodronski affirmed this and added that there was also a fire department connection to use pool water when needed for nearby fire-fighting. The pool is on its own well. Daley added that this property really reflects the era of enthusiasm for electricity and all of its potential and practicality, and how amazing it is that so many of these features are still present and some still function. Szcodronski noted that the subsequent owners also used the pool as a community gathering space, and in the course of her research she used Facebook to solicit community memories and feedback and the response was overwhelming with Caro residents responding with their memories of using the pool and visiting the house.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented.

Criteria and Level: A&C, local

Motion: Ferraro

Second: Devan Anderson

Vote: 8-0

**9. LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS – Amy Arnold**

**a. Good House Local Historic District, Birmingham, Oakland County**

Board comments: Ferraro inquired if this house was the only Kahn-designed home standing in the immediate neighborhood. Arnold responded that the area developed slowly over several decades so it is probably not the only home from the 1920s in the vicinity.

**b. Def Sound Studio House Local Historic District, Detroit, Wayne County**

Board comments: Devan Anderson noted that he attended the Historic Designation Advisory Board meeting in Detroit where this was discussed and there was over 90 minutes of two-minute public comments in support of this effort and the effect the studio had on the neighborhood/community, so it has

substantial local support. Ryzewski noted this might be one of the first hip-hop related historic resources in Michigan to be considered for local designation.

**10. APPEALS**

None.

**11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

May 17, 2024, September 20, 2024, January 17, 2025

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn: Devan Anderson

Second: Hobia

Vote: 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Nathan Nietering

DRAFT