

Michigan State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes January 17, 2025

Minutes of the State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting

Friday, January 17, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Devan Anderson, Matthew Daley, Lane Demas, Sharon Ferraro, Lakota Hobia (10:08),
Krysta Ryzewski, Ronald Staley

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Daniel Bollman (pre-excused)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Martha MacFarlane-Faes, Nathan Nietering, Haley Schriber, Ryan Schumaker, Sarah
Surface-Evans, Todd Walsh, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

From list.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Ryzewski called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda of the January 17, 2025, regular board meeting.

Motion: Anderson

Second: Ferraro

Vote: 6-0

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 20, 2024

Board Comments: None

Motion to approve the minutes as proposed.

Motion: Staley

Second: Ferraro
Vote: 6-0

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Board Comments: None
Motion to elect Devan Anderson as vice chair for a one-year term.
Motion: Ferraro
Second: Demas
Vote: 6-0

Hobia arrives 10:08

5. SHPO STAFF REPORTS

- a. SHPO Report – Ryan Schumaker and Martha MacFarlane-Faes
 - i. Schumaker acknowledged Dr. Ann Scott who has joined the Review Board as its newest appointee, taking the place of Dr. Dean Anderson who did not seek reappointment. Dr. Scott is from Midland and meets the professional qualifications as an archaeologist. Ann introduced herself at Schumaker's invitation.
 - ii. Dr. Matthew Daley and Dr. Krysta Ryzewski were both reappointed to the Review Board for additional three-year terms.
 - iii. Schumaker acknowledged that the SHPO has very recently been informed that is the recipient of an Underrepresented Communities Grant from the National Park Service (NPS) to study the architectural works of Black architect Nathan Johnson. A consultant will be hired to complete a reconnaissance level survey, write a survey report, complete a National Register Multiple Property Documentation form (MPDF) and complete one related single property National Register nomination as part of this grant.
 - iv. Schumaker discussed progress on SHPO's other recent NPS grant from the African American Civil Rights Program (AACR) to survey and nomination sites related to the African American Green Book. A review committee is presently reviewing proposals from consultants and hoping to get a finalist under contract yet this winter to begin the work.
 - v. Applications for the FY2025 Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program are presently being reviewed by the SHPO subcommittee; 5 applications were received this year and plans to make an award announcement in March.
 - vi. The Certified Local Government (CLG) FY2025 grant opportunity is open but the deadline to apply is coming up fast on February 3. In addition, some unspent funds from a previous, unfunded CLG grant have been reallocated to a continuing education and training opportunity for CLG communities to apply for. Up to \$40,000 can be awarded between now and mid-summer.

- vii. The Section 106 team is starting to work on the details of this year's consultant training day, presently scheduled for September 26, 2025, and will take place in Lansing this year.
- viii. Schumaker expects that he expects there will be changes made to NPS and SHPO programs as a result of the new presidential administration starting on January 20.
- ix. Schumaker and MacFarlane-Faes will attend the National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) annual meeting and advocacy week in Washington DC in early March and look forward to conferring with other SHPO leadership from across the country about issues and opportunities in preservation.
- x. MacFarlane-Faes continued the report and noted that Preservation Week in Washington also includes advocacy day where contingents from each state go to Capitol Hill to meet with their legislators. For the past several years due to several issues, no Michigan contingent has participated in the advocacy component of the week. State employees cannot do this in their official role, so the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) has typically been involved in the past, although this year they do not have the capacity to coordinate or participate this year. Anyone is welcome to attend and participate.
- xi. In SHPO staffing news, longtime SHPO employee Amy Arnold retired at the end of 2024. SHPO leadership is exploring with MEDC leadership about backfilling that position. However, we also welcomed Kevin Lee as the newest architect in our office, who joined us in October. He will be intimately involved in tax credit project reviews.
- xii. Federal tax credit reviews are approaching "normal," and once Kevin has completed his training we should be able to meet expected deadlines easily. Many projects that are being completed were begun before current staff were involved, so additional research on early phases of the project is required.
- xiii. Review times for the state historic tax credit are well within the accepted timeframes. The new 2025 application window opened on January 2 and as expected, the Large Commercial credit was fully committed up to its \$2 million cap immediately. Applications are being accepted for owner-occupied/residential and small commercial bucket credits for 2025. The perception that the application process is too complicated for homeowners has been cumbersome but we are hoping to do more trainings and outreach this year to encourage applications in both of these categories.
- xiv. MacFarlane-Faes continued by highlighting that in 2025 SHPO will kickoff planning for the next Statewide Historic Preservation Plan (2027-2034), a requirement of the National Historic Preservation Act. A request for proposals is open at this time in the search for a facilitator to organize five regional public meetings and two virtual

meetings to gather public input to help inform the plan. The details of the public meetings should be ready to share by the Board's next meeting in May. The plan will explore strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities relating to preservation in Michigan.

- xv. MacFarlane-Faes shared some of the latest information about the recent effort by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) in Washington DC which in late December issued its final program comment providing a streamlined alternative to the Section 106 process for federal projects which relate to climate resiliency, housing, and transportation projects. Each federal agency will now have the option to choose to follow the new program comment process instead of the traditional process. Michigan's SHPO was among many SHPOs across the country that provided thoughtful and direct comments back on the draft program comment during the single opportunity to offer comment.
 1. The draft program comment raised several concerns:
 - a. It will bypass SHPO consultation for any project that is not an adverse effect,
 - b. It relies on existing data, and does not require survey or identification,
 - c. It does not seek community input,
 - d. Tribal involvement and consultation will only take place for projects on tribal lands
 2. One key change did get incorporated from the draft feedback – if an agency is already operating under an existing Section 106 programmatic agreement, the programmatic agreement will still remain valid.
 3. The program comments was essentially forced through during the holiday season during the final days of the administration in a largely non-transparent process.
 4. Board member Hobia offered from her position as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi (Gun Lake Tribe) and the chairperson of the National Association of THPO's (NATHPO) that the program comment largely took place as a result of pressure from the White House. The ACHP chairperson has become more political as the position transitioned during the 2010s from a congressional appointee to a presidential appointee. Several federal agencies had not planned to use the program comment but were encouraged to vote to approve program comment because of how it would assist a few specific agencies. The duration of the program comment was decreased from 20 years down to 10 years in the final approved version. Two voting members who were planning to vote for the program comment ended up abstaining in the end – the Department

of the Interior and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

b. Archaeology – Sarah Surface-Evans

- i. Relating to the ACHP program comment, Surface-Evans offered that the archaeology staff and Michigan archaeology community issues its own comments and statements specifically in regard to archaeological concerns.
- ii. A quick review of 2024 archaeology activities was presented, including over 13,500 acres surveyed including the identification of over 400 new archaeology sites and 31 sites considered for National Register eligibility. Two more bulletins in the “archaeology answers” series were published which address common perceptions/questions about archaeology for the public. A new form for Traditional Cultural Places/Landscapes (TCPs) was developed earlier in the year. The 2024 Michigan Archaeology Month poster also focuses on TCPs and partnered with several tribal specialists to develop the content.
- iii. SHPO plans to convene a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriations Act (NAGPRA) strategic planning meeting in 2025. At the end of 2024 SHPO provided Michigan tribes with full inventories of remains in state collections to facilitate future repatriation efforts. A fall repatriation event took place with the Little River Band of Odawa Indians. SHPO also recently sent out notices to federal agencies identifying federal holdings that are curated in state archaeological collections.
- iv. Public outreach has been robust and busy, including Michigan Archaeology Day and Month in October, and a series of archaeology presentations across both peninsulas including stops in the U.P., Traverse City area, and elsewhere in the lower peninsula. SHPO archaeology staff recently presented papers at the Society for Historical Archaeology conference in New Orleans and also plan to attend the Society for American Archaeology conference in Denver this spring.

c. National Register Program – Todd Walsh

- i. Walsh shared a series of slides showcasing cumulative National Register program data from 2017-2024 illustrating the totality of National Register actions over this time period.
- ii. Walsh reminded board members that many National Register projects are moving toward completion and it is likely the May agenda will be quite busy.

6. GOVERNOR’S AWARDS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION – Nathan Nietering
7 projects are proposed to receive Governor’s Awards for 2025.

- a. Charlevoix Historic Resources, Rogers Theater, Chapin Mansion, Fort St. Joseph Archaeology, and Gordon House
Motion: Demas
Second: Ferraro
Vote: 7-0
- b. Book Tower
Motion: Demas
Second: Anderson
Vote: 6-0
Recused: Staley
- c. Michigan Central Station
Motion: Hobia
Second: Ferraro
Vote: 5-0
Recused: Anderson, Staley

7. PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Summary of Correspondence:

Letters of no objection were received for Marian Hall and St. Mary of Redford nominations. Seven letters of objection were received for the Charlevoix Central Historic District nomination.

Summary of Public Comment:

NOTE: Comments offered by the public are limited to 2 minutes per speaker.

Eric Jenkins representing the Detroit Public Schools Community District spoke regarding agenda item 8b inquiring if the nominated property can exclude the Paul Robeson Malcolm X Academy which is included in the nomination boundary. Jonathan Scheel, representing the City of Charlevoix spoke in support of agenda item 8d. Scott Whiteford spoke in support of agenda item 8c. Sarah Aisenbrey spoke in support of agenda item 8a.

8. NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS

- a. **Marian Hall, Flint, Genesee County**
Presented by Kristine Kidorf
Board comments: Walsh thanked Sarah Aisenbrey, archivist for the Sisters of the Precious Blood, for her dedication in tracking down many details relating to the history of the property which informed this nomination. No other comments were offered by the board.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented.

Criteria and Level: A, Consideration A, Local

Motion: Anderson

Second: Ferraro

Vote: 7-0

b. Saint Mary of Redford Catholic Church, Detroit, Wayne County

Presented by Kristine Kidorf

Board comments: Kidorf acknowledged the public comment inquiring about the boundaries of the nominated property by stating that because the Detroit Schools' property is historically associated with the church and school complex, it is necessary to include it in the nomination, but noted that being nominated does not impose any specific regulation on the property owner. Staley inquired about the lack of interior photos of the rectory and another building; Kidorf responded that she was not granted access to those particular interiors.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented

Criteria and Level: A & C, Consideration A, Local

Motion: Staley

Second: Anderson

Vote: 7-0

The board took a lunch break at 12:08 p.m. and reconvened at 12:37 p.m.

c. Nichols Hotel, South Haven, Van Buren County

Presented by Alan Higgins

Board comments: None.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented.

Criteria and Level: A, Local

Motion: Lane

Second: Staley

Vote: 7-0

d. Charlevoix Central Historic District, Charlevoix, Charlevoix County

Presented by Alan Higgins

Board comments: Staley asked about the listing of the developer for the Weathervane Hotel Annex. Earlier on page 29, the contractor listed in the inventory doesn't match what is stated in the paragraph which follows. Higgins responded he would review those entries carefully.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented.

Criteria and Level: A & C, Local

Motion: Staley

Second: Ferraro

Vote: 7-0

9. LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Presented by Haley Schriber

Ryzewski provided an overview of the role of the board in reviewing local historic district study committee reports.

a. Groves Farm Local Historic District, Northfield Township, Washtenaw County

Board comments: None.

b. Rosa and Raymond Parks Flat Local Historic District, Detroit, Wayne County

Board comments: Ryzewski noted the high degree of integrity for the entire parcel, and highlighted that Rosa was known as a gardener and suggested there may be a high potential that the backyard would have archaeological potential from the perspective of landscape archaeology. Walsh added that the use of the backyard as a known space where related, significance activities likely took place might make the backyard a contributing site, as well.

10. APPEALS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Potential dates of 2025 meetings were discussed by board members with input from SHPO leadership

- a. Friday, May 30, 2025 (9:30 a.m. start time), Monday, September 22, 2025, and Friday, December 12, 2025

Motion to accept this calendar of proposed dates

Motion: Ferraro

Second: Anderson

Vote: 7-0

Ryzewski congratulated Staley on the publication of his recent book "Ruins to Revival: Restoring the Michigan Central Station, a builder's journey."

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Ferraro

Second: Anderson

Vote: 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Nietering