

CITY OF LACONIA HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
6:30 PM City Hall - Armand A. Bolduc City Council Chamber
Draft Minutes

9/28/2021 - Minutes

1. Call to order

Tara Shore called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

2. Roll call

Members present: Karl Reitz, Charlie St. Clair, Sonya Misiaszek, Hillary Martin, Tara Shore

Absent: Laurel Briere, Mark Haynes

Also present: special guest, Jim Belcher

3. Recording secretary

Kalen Graham

4. Staff in attendance

Planning Director Dean Trefethen

5. Acceptance of Minutes from previous meeting

5.1. Acceptance of minutes from July 27

Motion to accept the minutes made by K. Rietz, C. St. Clair seconded. All voted in favor.

6. Public comment

7. Applications & Public Hearings: *The purpose of this agenda section is for the Commission to have a presentation from the applicant and open a Public Hearing for the public to provide input. The Board may also deliberate the application, decide and conduct a final vote at this time.

8. New business

8.1. Update on status of subcommittee

T. Shore noted that she had reached out to the Mayor and had not heard anything. C. St. Clair brought up Councilor Bruce Cheney's concern from the previous meeting. It sounded like the ball was back in the Commissions' court. Planning Director Dean Trefethen agreed and will reach out to Councilor Soucy who sits as Chair on the Council's ordinance committee. The proposed sub committee previously discussed at Council had not been established yet. He will let the Commission know when the expansion will be on the agenda.

It's the assumption that the Council doesn't like the fact that the Commission has authority to spend grant money that might be allocated in the future, without Council oversight. C. St. Clair asked if the Commission cared if Council had oversight? He personally didn't care about the money part. Planning Director D. Trefethen noted that the Council needs to vote to accept any grant money coming into the city regardless. The only thing C. St. Clair's seeing

the Commission spending any money on would be to educate the people on the Commission. Planning Director D. Trefethen also noted that there is a state statute involving commissions and funds. Chair T. Shore would rather the subcommittee that was discussed a few months ago, at Council, be put in place. Where there were members of the Commission, Council and the downtown businesses. She is very interested to get all the contents out in the open so they can be addressed. She feels all the Commissions should be treated the same. Planning Director D. Trefethen will get an idea on the subcommittee by next Friday and report.

Members that were discussed at the last meeting for the subcommittee are C. St. Clair, K. Reitz and L. Briere. Rusty McLear was brought up as a person of interest to get a hold of.

8.II. United Baptist Church nomination for Seven to Save

Chair T. Shore noted that the Commission did back this and she sent the HDC approval out.

9. Old business

9.I. Discussion with Artist Jim Belcher

K. Reitz introduced Jim Belcher to the Commission. He is an artist and local resident. He explained and passed around some work he had done and ideas he had seen in other communities such as Belfast ME. Chair T. Shore mentioned the Google Lens tours.

J. Belcher brought up some ideas for a logo for the Commission. He noted that everything he does can be digitized for modification. Chair T. Shore also likes the idea of branding for the Commission and would like to get that done first. There was discussion about having a few buildings for the logo.

J. Belcher left at 7:15 PM.

9.II. Work on the welcome postcard

Chair T. Shore went over the draft letter that would be sent out to current structure owners in the existing overlay district. The Commission looked it over. Chair T. Shore will send it out to the members and asked for any revisions so a final draft can be ready for the October 26 meeting. She also asked the commission to look at the graphic for the next meeting.

The Commission went over the flyer.

10. Other business

Planning Director D. Trefethen mentioned that the cross on top of the CAKE building came down today.

C. St. Clair brought up the Garden Theater and S. Misiaszek noted that they have an architect, at her firm, doing the work and will be in good hands.

C. St. Clair also brought up that 76 Lakeside is for sale as a package deal and hopes it doesn't get to the point of demolition. He wants the city to not allow that.

There was discussion about the old O'shea building.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.

DRAFT