



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN
Community Services Area
Planning & Development Services Unit
100 North Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647
Phone: (734) 794-6265 - Fax: (734) 994-8312
www.a2gov.org

South Fourth and South Fifth Avenues
Historic District Study Committee
Meeting Notes
January 12, 2010
Sixth Floor Conference Room
City Hall, 100 N Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. In attendance were committee members: McCauley, Gilbert, Hanel-Gerdenich, Lopez Kriss, Wallace, Whitaker, Wineberg, consultant Kristine Kidorf, and members of the public Ethel Potts, Dave Askins, Alex de Parry, Pete Webster, Tom Luczak, Martha Luczak, and Beverly Strassmann. No committee members were absent.

Chair McCauley re-iterated the process that the committee will follow – that the preliminary report will be available for sixty days for public review before the committee's public hearing and that the committee will take public comment from the hearing into account before preparing the final report.

Review of Draft Report and Boundaries

The committee members made suggestions about the draft report including adding more information on the German residents, that prominent Irish and Yankee families also lived in the district, that criterion B, association with significant persons should be added, and that Queen Anne should be added to the district description.

The committee then reviewed each of the three boundary choices and came to a consensus that the south boundary should include the properties on the south side of Packard (120 through 314) but not go further south. The Packard properties relate to the German and prominent citizens and architecture themes of the area north of Packard, but the area south of Packard has a different theme. The committee agreed that the area south of Packard is probably significant on its own merit as a district but with a different history than north of Packard. Specifically the south half has a weaker architectural theme because the houses have been altered and there are a number of new buildings on South Fourth; the factory on Madison plays a stronger role in the southern area; and the houses are newer or were moved into the district at a later time.

Member Whitaker asked the committee to consider sending a letter to City Council asking them to extend the moratorium for an additional six months because the study committee is making good progress and asking Council to consider amending the committee's charge to include the southern area because of the owners' interest in creating a district. The committee agreed a better time for the letter would be when the final report is submitted to Council and recommending a study committee be appointed to study the area separately. The committee will include all of the research found for the area.

Assignments

Kristi Gilbert and Susan Wineberg will work on editing and adding information to the history section of the draft report, including the architecture section and the bibliography.

Ina Hanel-Gerdenich will inventory the outbuildings and other features such as fences and hitching posts.

Kristine Kidorf will prepare the legal boundary description and will review the overall report for consistency, including adding criterion B for significance and updating the description of the district.

Assignments are due to Kristine Kidorf by February 9 so she can revise the report and distribute it to the committee before the meeting on February 16th.

Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2010 from 7 to 9pm in city hall, the conference room will be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.