

Roundtable of Royal Oak Historical Organizations
Minutes of Meeting
November 11, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 P.M.

In attendance: Bill Sullivan, Ruth Cleaveland, Barbara Randau, Pete Mancour, Lois Lance and Karen Crawford. Blanche Howard was absent.

It should be noted that the following people do not receive a copy of the agenda:

Pete Mancour, Bill Sullivan and Lois Lance. In the future, Barb Randau will notify Ruth Cleaveland, Ruth will notify Lois Lance and Karen will notify Pete Mancour. A copy of the agenda should be sent via email to Bill Sullivan.

Minutes of the June 9, 2009 Meeting

Ruth Cleaveland moved to approve. Seconded by Pete Mancour. Motion approved.

Group Updates

Karen Crawford reported for the Historical Commission that the Block Grant work on the Starr House has been completed. The fence was extended to the new lot line on the south side of the drive way. The fence to the north and along the northern lot line was painted as was the new fencing. The cedar roof was cleaned and a coat of preservative was applied. There were some rotten shingles that needed to be replaced and that was done, too. The preservative has some stain in it but it is hardly evident and the roof looks brand new. A new screen door was fabricated and installed at the back door, window wells were added to the basement windows in an attempt to contain wood rot and to redirect water from the basement. Some wood was replaced at one of the basement windows as it was rotten.

The Historical Commission has started to work with teachers from both the Royal Oak School District and the Shrine Elementary. They hope to facilitate the teaching of the history of Royal Oak with additional ideas, teachers aids and data. The intent is that each of these classes will attend a session at both the Starr House Museum and the new museum at the fire station. This project is in the early stages. They are also working to finalize a new presence on the city's web site. It should be a combination of local history and resources as well as an up to date source for current historical activities in town.

Mancour and Sullivan reported that the annual meeting of the Historical Society was held in October. There were fewer attendees this year but they thought that the gate was about the same as last year.

The fire station is almost ready for occupancy. They are clearing it out now. The move is scheduled for December 12th and Andrew Androff has volunteered to provide both the trucks and the man power to do it. The Boy Scouts have been a big help with the preparation for this move. The elevator is in and passed its inspection. The city is requiring that a fire alarm system be installed. Both the architect and the contractor have been wonderful. They had to waterproof the basement and will need to tuck point the outside in the spring.

Randau stated that she thought that the fire station should be an historic district. Mancour agreed. Cleaveland said that they should get started on that soon. Mancour also said that they were working with Steve Jones to produce a written agreement with the church regarding parking.

Cleaveland reported that the Historic District Commission approved a request from the owner of Metals in Time to change his signs to indicate that he sold jewelry. These signs will be on both the Main and the 4th Street sides of the bank building. The motion was approved.

The Historic District Study Committee has produced a rough draft for the Stauch House, formerly known as the Roby House. Four generations lived in that house, from 1835 on. The property was originally 72 acres. It was sold in the early 1900s to a developer. The farmhouse faced north. It now fronts west on Elmhurst. All but about 3 lots were sold to the developer.

About 58% of the original house is still there in its original format. The original well house/shed is still there. It was a wood clapboard sided. It is now covered with siding. The original timbers are there in the sub basement. The original wood flooring is in the kitchen. The door frames inside are original to the house. After the first of the year, they plan to work on Historic District plaques. They want something that will have both the name of the structure and the year that it was built. Cleaveland wants them in bronze. They will be square/rectangular in shape.

There are a total of 7 historic districts in town at this time.

Lois Lance announced that the new chair of the cemetery board is Ed Burkhardt. The Guild will hold an open house in December when the organist from the Congregational Church will again play the organ. Her daughter will accompany her on the violin. They will perform Christmas music.

The Friends of the Almon Starr House are working on the catalog that goes with the paintings that they are sending to the new Historical Society museum. These paintings were done in the 1950s and 1960s.

Old Business

Cleaveland noted that the calendars are all gone. All funds were deposited. She did not have the final figures.

Future Projects

Randau said that she thought that the idea of Christmas cards was one that we could pursue at a later date.

A discussion ensued regarding the idea of working on another book. Mancour said that he thought that it was too soon. Maybe we should hold off for a year and then talk about it.

Cleaveland thought that we should produce placemats. Maybe use Mike Byrne's drawings? Mancour will do some research to see about cost.

The next meeting will be held on January 13, 2010 at the Starr House. The meeting is scheduled for 3P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 P.M.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Crawford, Secretary.