

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

HISTORIC DESIGNATION ADVISORY BOARD

218 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Detroit, Michigan 48226

Phone: 313-224-3487 Fax: 313-224-4336

Email: historic@detroitmi.gov

Historic Designation Advisory Board Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 16, 2022

4:00 PM

Belle Isle Conservatory

4 Inselruhe Avenue

Detroit, Michigan 48207

I. Call to order and roll call

The Historic Designation Advisory Board Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Board Member Calvin Jackson.

The following board members were in attendance: Melanie Bazil, Keith Dye, Nubia Wardford Polk, Calvin Jackson, Louis Fisher

The following board member was excused: Theresa Holder-Hagood.

The following board members were absent: Carolyn Carter, Naomi Beasley-Porter

Staff: Janese Chapman, Ryan Schumaker, Rebecca Savage, Sabrina Shockley

II. Approval of Agenda

Louis Fisher motioned to amend the agenda to add a vote on the Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes Preliminary Report, which includes requested revisions from the May discussion at King David Missionary Baptist Church. Melanie Bazil second the motion. Motion approved.

III. Approval of Minutes

Regular Board Meeting of November 17, 2021

Louis Fisher requested a correction of his name in the minutes on the first page; and page 4 on the third line down to add Sandra Little, Co-Founder. Minutes, as amended, were approved by unanimous vote.

III. New Business

*The Proposed Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes Historic District
Draft Preliminary Report – Rebecca Savage, HDAB Staff*

Rebecca Savage, HDAB Staff, gave a brief presentation on the Proposed Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Historic District. The boundary at the south is Nevada Road, on the east is Mound Road, at the north is Seven Mile Road and on the west is Ryan Road. The report, using HDAB Criterion 1, 2 and 3, which is based on the National Register Criterion A, B, and C. Krainz Woods has approximately 1,520 homes and approximately 60 commercial structures in the neighborhood.

The Krainz Woods area was once considered the countryside; but by 1910 the City of Detroit sprawled northward, and developers came in and created subdivisions. By 1923 Atkinson Elementary School, now Legacy Charter Academy was constructed. In 1942 the area became significant for the Sojourner Truth Homes. In that era, 24 Black families attempted to move into the Sojourner Truth Homes and there were violent confrontations where over 40 people were hospitalized. It became national news when this struggle for housing came into the forefront. Today there is a historic marker on the site.

John Krainz was killed in World War II and in 1949 a park was named for him and then the entire area adopted his name. Significant residents of the area included Malcom X, members of the Dramatics and the Floaters, and basketball star Spencer Haywood.

There will be a second public meeting in the proposed historic district at the Sojourner Truth Homes on Thursday, June 30, 2022. A copy of the notice was distributed to Board Members.

Rebecca Savage noted that she included the architects of the 1987 renovation to the Sojourner Truth Homes to the preliminary report as requested by board member Louis Fisher.

Action: Louis Fisher motioned to accept the Preliminary Report of the Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes Historic District. Melanie Bazil second the motion. Motion approved.

Janese Chapman, HDAB Staff, informed the members that we will meet again the King David Missionary Baptist Church in 60 days (September) for the public hearing.

National Register Nomination CLG

Voting Action:

*The Luther Burbank Elementary School NRN - 15600 East State Fair Avenue
Shannon Winterhalter, MacRostie Historic Advisors, Midwest*

- 1) Was a site visit made to the property by the board members? **Yes.**
- 2) Did the property meet the National Register Criterion A and C? **Yes.**
- 3) Does the Board find that this property meets National Register standard of integrity? **Yes**
- 4) Would the board recommend approval or denial for this historic resource?
Approval

Sojourner Truth Homes NRN — 4525 and 4801 East Nevada Street
Lillian Candela, Kraemer Design Group

- 1) Was a site visit made to the property by the board members? **Yes.**
- 2) Did the property meet the National Register Criterion A, the State level of significance? **Yes.**
- 3) Does the Board find that this property meets National Register standards of integrity? **Yes**
- 4) Would the board recommend approval or denial of this proposed nomination?
Approval

Marygrove College NRN — 8425 West McNichols Road
Lillian Candela, Kraemer Design Group

- 1) Was a site visit made to the property by the board members? **Yes.**
- 2) Did the property meet the National Register Criterion A and C, the local level of significance? **Yes.**
- 3) Does the Board find that this property meets National Register standards of integrity? **Yes**
- 4) Would the board recommend approval of the proposed site under the National Register listing under the local level? **Approval**

V. Old Business Report

- Report on HDC activities

Rebecca Savage, HDAB Staff, noted that this past meeting (June) was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

- HDAB staff report

Janese Chapman, HDAB Staff, noted an article in Crains Business regarding the lack of quorum becoming an issue for historic preservation departments in the City of Detroit because of Covid. Developers still need to get their projects done. Janese asked the board members present if they wanted to continue to be a part of the board and noted that she will reach out to those not present with the same question. Joseph Rashid has decided to resign because of a new position he has

taken. Based upon attendance, there may be another opening.

HDAB is in the process of hiring a new full-time staff person. An offer will go out next week to a candidate. There is also money to bring in another part-time employee, which we hope to hire soon. Two interns from Wayne State University's Anthropology Program will begin working next week with HDAB this summer taking photographs of properties in Krainz Woods. The interns are graduate students working in the Humanities Clinic at Wayne State University and will be paid by the University.

VI. Review of correspondence

- Update on CLG Projects
- NAPC Forum 2022 Grant Funding
- Update on Grant Projects

Ryan Schumaker reported they are closing out the 8 Mile/Wyoming Project. We are about to put for bid out the Latinx Community grant that is under the same program. We should be posting that tomorrow to get a consultant for that work. Just this week, executed the Middle Eastern Community grant, under that same program.

SHPO has offered up another round of grant funding for the National Alliance Preservation Conference, July 13-17, 2022, in Cincinnati, Ohio; offering \$1,000 to reimburse to those who want to attend. HDAB wants to offer that to any board member who desires to go. Ryan will be attending the conference and must make a report to SHPO on what was learned. The grant itself will only cover conference registration and the hotel. The City of Detroit will be able to reimburse for your mileage. Staff will send you the information and need to know by tomorrow if you are interested in attending.

This past Wednesday, the State Historic Preservation Office launched its new State Rehabilitation Tax Credit. It includes three categories, two are commercial. For projects 1) over \$2 million in rehabilitation work expenses; 2) under \$2 million in rehabilitation expenses; and 3) \$1 million of credits for residential projects. The dollar amounts are for the entire state and the funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. The State stopped accepting applications within 5 hours of its opening because of the number of applications received; but the residential tax credits are still open. Those commercial properties who receive the tax credit must report back to the State how many jobs were created and how much tax revenue was generated.

HDAB is anticipating getting inquiries from residents about this tax credit. There are a handful of applications we have seen. Our office, or the agency office must sign and verify that it is in a local district, which is part of the requirements.

- Update on Secondary Street Signs

Janese Chapman reported that she is on the City Council's standing committee agenda for next week to discuss secondary street signs. There is a problem with Council members exceeding the five (5) names per year the current ordinance limits them to.

Janese Chapman also informed the board members that Mark Rodman, who was appointed by the Governor to head SHPO for the State of Michigan passed away, Wednesday, June 15th.

Rebecca Savage passed out a flyer regarding the Hamtramck Negro League Stadium Rededication on June 20, 2022 and invited anyone interested in attending.

Nubia Wardford Polk informed the board members of the Charles H Wright Museum of African America History's upcoming Juneteenth walk from 12 to 5 pm that is less than a mile.

VII. Public Comment – no public comments

VIII. Adjournment - Calvin Jackson adjourned the meeting at 5:54 pm.

***NOTE:** With advance notice of seven calendar days, the City of Detroit will provide interpreter services at public meetings, including language translation and reasonable ADA accommodations. Please contact the **Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity Department** at (313) 224.4950, through the TTY number 711, or email crio@detroitmi.gov to schedule these services.*