

Michigan State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes September 22, 2023

Minutes of the State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting

Friday, September 22, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dean Anderson, Devan Anderson, Daniel Bollman, Matthew Daley, Lane Demas, Sharon Ferraro, Lakota Hobia, Krysta Ryzewski

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Amy Arnold, Amy Krull, Mara Lancaster, Martha MacFarlane-Faes, Nathan Nietering, Todd Walsh, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Acting Board Chair Krysta Ryzewski called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda of the September 22, 2023 regular board meeting with the amendment to remove election of the Board Vice Chair as an agenda item.

Motion: Hobia

Second: Ferraro

Vote: 8-0

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 19, 2023

Board Comments: None

Motion to approve the minutes as proposed.

Motion: Demas

Second: Dean Anderson

Vote: 8-0

4. SHPO STAFF REPORTS

a. SHPO Report – Ryan Schumaker & Martha MacFarlane-Faes

MacFarlane-Faes introduced Ryan Schumaker who began his appointed role as Michigan's State Historic Preservation Officer on September 5. Ryan provided a brief overview of his professional background and experience for the board.

MacFarlane-Faes highlighted recent agency-wide customer service efforts to obtain feedback from customers and others who use various programs, including SHPO. On August 2, SHPO staff took a behind the scenes tour of the Michigan State Capitol and hope to continue to build relationships with Capitol Historians. Nathan Nietering has launched an Instagram account for the office in an effort to try to reach a younger audience. In staffing news, in addition to Ryan's appointment, archaeologists Mike Hambacher is retiring effective today, after a fifty year career in archaeology, including the past couple of years with the SHPO. Mike's archaeologist position will be backfilled, 39 applications received, we hope to have the new person in place later this fall. Alan Higgins has been promoted to the Grants Manager/Budget Specialist position. He continues to oversee the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, until the CLG coordinator/local outreach position can be advertised and backfilled. Approval is also in place to hire a third architect for the office to support tax credit and easement programs.

SHPO hosted a Section 106 training program which was very well-attended by consultants and we received much positive feedback. SHPO continues to consult on the Isle Royale National Park Wilderness Plan, and the Line 5 project and Saugatuck Dunes marina development project near the mouth of the Kalamazoo River at Saugatuck. The CLG program welcomed Michigan's 42nd CLG community in early September, Coldwater. In August, \$200,000 in CLG grants was announced, to fund projects in Calumet, Charlevoix, Muskegon, Ypsilanti, and Washtenaw County's Northfield Township. In other grant news, the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) 2024 grant deadline is coming up in late November. SHPO is also administering a federal NPS grant to fund the roof replacement at King Solomon Baptist Church in Detroit, with the work planned to take place this fall despite cost increases and other complications. MEDC is providing gap funding to help cover the additional costs incurred.

Regarding the Tax Credit programs, the Federal Tax Credit application submission went all digital in August. Mara Lancaster led a State Tax Credit webinar on September 19 which is linked on the SHPO website; applications are being accepted now in the small commercial and residential categories. MacFarlane-Faes shared some year-to-date statistics of the program. The large commercial category is completely subscribed for 2023 and 2024, so that credit will not be offered in 2024. Part 2 applications must be received by November 30 of this year to be considered for 2022 or 2023 funds.

Ryzewski congratulated Schumaker on his appointment and thanked MacFarlane-Faes, on behalf of the entire board, for steering the ship for more than a year while no officer was appointed.

b. Archaeology Report – Sarah Surface-Evans Ph.D.

Surface-Evans thanked Mike Hambacher for his service to SHPO and Michigan Archaeology and wished him well in his retirement. She also thanked SHPO's 4 contracted employees currently employed by the office to scan survey records for above- and below-ground records in preparation for digitization. Their efforts are commendable.

Well over 3,000 federal projects have been reviewed for archaeology environmental compliance this fiscal year. 274 new archaeological sites have been assigned site numbers, and its possible a few more may come in before the end of the month, spread across 46 counties. Many of these sites are related to U.S. Forest Service projects. 3,200 acres of land has been surveyed this year. We have also been making a concerted effort to update our archaeological standards and share these standards documents with the public. New forms are also being created to allow consistent information to be submitted to our office. The archaeology position of the SHPO website ([Michigan.gov/archaeology](https://michigan.gov/archaeology)) has been redesigned with an eye toward better usability, and we would appreciate any user feedback as we continue to make changes.

SHPO continues to work on NAGPRA compliance to conduct an inventory of state collections to initiate consultation with the goal of repatriating ancestors. A policy document has also been created as part of this effort relating to NAGPRA compliance. Archaeology has had an immensely busy year for outreach, visiting dozens of sites across the state including Isle Royale and the Mackinac Straits. Numerous trainings were given this year, including a data training and sharing workshop with THPO's. A new Bulletin series has been created this year to better reach the general public to address commonly asked questions and help them make informed decisions. The 2023 Michigan Archaeology Poster design is underway but will feature 25 years of archaeology at the Fort St. Joseph site near Niles. We are also planning a full slate of virtual and in-person lectures and field experiences for Michigan Archaeology Month (October). Surface-Evans provided a handout to board members.

c. National Register of Historic Places Report – Todd Walsh

Walsh noted that all of the properties approved by the board in May have been listed by NPS. Portions of the National Register webpage on the SHPO website have recently been rearranged to better assist novice users in finding helpful information. Yet this fall, all of Michigan's MPDF, MRA, and other context documents will be made available on our website in an effort to make these more accessible to researchers and the general public. He also thanked Surface-Evans for her work to incorporate at least one paragraph about archaeological potential in Michigan's NRHP nominations going forward.

Walsh then summarized the cumulation of National Register actions undertaken by the Michigan SHPO from May 2017 through August 2023, sharing metrics by

action type, resource type, nomination source, nominations by county, listings under MPDFs (Multiple Property Documentation Forms), and investments by Tax Credit type. Devan Anderson highlighted that while it may take years for individual nominations to come forward after MPDF documents have been approved, the dividends can be found far beyond strictly National Register nominations, as MPDFs and the histories they provide can spur local knowledge and preservation efforts regardless of if nominations are the final product.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Summary of Correspondence:

An individual letter of support was received in support of the Groves Farm. A letter of objection was received for the Clipper Belt Lacer nomination followed by a letter retracting the objection for that property.

Summary of Public Comment:

None.

6. NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS

a. Clipper Belt Lacer Company Complex, Grand Rapids, Kent County Presented by Matt Dixon

Board Comments: Ferraro had located an actual lacer belt from the Clipper Company and passed it around for board members to see, ultimately giving it to Dixon. Daley commented that the successor to Clipper, Flexco, still operates in the Grand Rapids area and still manufactures some belts using equipment that had previously been used at the nominated Front Avenue property. Dixon added that Clipper and Flexco were both able to adapt to changing markets and continue to make products for agricultural, conveyor belt and escalator use.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented.

Criteria and Level: A, local

Motion: Daley

Second: Bollman

Vote: 8-0

b. Groves Farm, Northfield Township, Washtenaw County Presented by Cheri Szcodronski

Board Comments: Hobia appreciated the effort to include the discussion of historical occupation beyond the period of significance and to acknowledge the relationships that existed in early western settlement times between settlers and Native Americans in the region. Hobia offered to provide some recommendations

for specific language relating to the translation of Potawatomi words, but this would not impact the nomination. Daley added that it might be helpful to devise a style sheet to help nominators properly discuss pioneers and their interactions with local tribes. Hobia added it might also be useful for the SHPO to collaborate with THPO's to help identify local contexts to help discuss the complexities of this early history so that all sides' stories can be incorporated. Daley added that the nomination was strengthened by fully telling the story of the farm as it moved away from full traditional farming practices toward a more modern, less agricultural use. Ryzewski added that the long term perspective of incorporating early settlement history and interactions is a value-add in nominations such as this which may be used by the general public to help inform their own understanding of history. Walsh added that the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission offered comments on this nomination, and the SHPO offered a response to these comments and these communications were all provided to board members.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented.

Criteria and Level: A&C, local

Motion: Dean Anderson

Second: Devan Anderson

Vote: 8-0

c. Eden Springs Park, Benton Harbor, Berrien County

Presented by Cheri Szcodronski

Board Comments: Ferraro noted she was so enchanted by the nomination that she called the venue to arrange to take a tour, and spent almost 4 hours touring the site. As historians, you can walk the site and easily identify structural remains giving a sense of what was once there. Szcodronski commented that it is also a great venue to bring children to. Ferraro commented that the miniature railroad operation is a sight to behold, one part museum, one part entertaining ride. Ryzewski added that she thought this was a really good example of a statement of archaeological potential written by Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans being incorporated into a nomination that already discusses some archaeological sites.

Motion to approve the nomination as presented.

Criteria and Level: A&C, local, criteria consideration a.

Motion: Ferraro

Second: Daley

Vote: 8-0

d. National Register Removals

Presented by Nathan Nietering

The following National Register-listed properties are planned to be delisted during 2023-2024.

- i. Lewis Cass Technical High School, Detroit, Wayne County
- ii. Forrest J. Stimpson, House, Mackinaw City, Cheboygan County
- iii. James A. Garfield, School, Detroit, Wayne County
- iv. Ironwood City Hall, Ironwood, Gogebic County
- v. Ada Covered Bridge, Ada, Kent County
- vi. US-12/Coldwater River Bridge, Coldwater, Branch County
- vii. Mellus Newspapers Building, Lincoln Park, Wayne County
- viii. Park Avenue Hotel, Detroit, Wayne County
- ix. Monroe Avenue Commercial Buildings, Detroit, Wayne County
- x. Cloverland Hotel, Iron River, Iron County

Board Comments: None.

Motion to approve the proposed delistings as presented.

Motion: Devan Anderson

Second: Ferraro

Vote: 8-0

7. LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS – Amy Arnold

a. Mission Historic District. Mackinac Island, Mackinac County

Board comments: None.

b. Small Point Historic District. Mackinac Island, Mackinac County

Board comments: Dean Anderson offered that the statement of significance sentences discussing Fr. Jacques Marquette, the refugee Huron band, and Fort de Buade aren't fully accurate. Historical sources have shown that the Huron were moving from place to place to find better soil conditions, and the Jesuit priests were following them, the Jesuits were not leading the Huron as it is presented. This should be reworded. Hobia added that Michigan's Tribes have been in discussion with the Michigan State Park system in an effort to more accurately portray the stories of settlement and Tribal histories in Park signage and other interpretive materials.

c. Winkler Mill Pond Historic District Modification, Rochester Hills, Oakland County

Board comments:

d. Dr. Lula Belle Stewart House Historic District, Detroit, Wayne County

Board comments:

8. APPEALS – Jon Stuckey and Austin Wright

a. David Rzyzi v. City of Detroit Historic District Commission

Board Comments: Bollman clarified with Wright if the intention was to include 9 new parking spaces adjoining the existing parking lot. Wright responded that he believed this is correct. Page 51 notes an existing conditions demolition plan, and proposed parking plan, Wright agreed. Ferraro agreed with the commission that a building would be preferable to a parking lot, but expanding a parking lot now doesn't preclude a building from being built on this site in the future.

Devan Anderson observed that at this time the entire lot is functionally being used as parking, so in effect they are adding some trees/landscaping. He continued that he had once done a project on a building across the street, so he is familiar with the site. He continued it seems strange for a building to be specifically mentioned over an existing parking lot, when a building is not being proposed nor can it be required. Bollman reiterated that the local commission has the ability to determine local significance, but emphasized that the commission indicated adding a curb cut ruins the context. Devan indicated that the curb cut is replacing streetside parking. Devan commented that the Detroit Historic District Commission is now supported by a larger full-time staff which is immensely useful.

Motion to adopt the proposal for decision that the appeal filed in the case of David Rzyzi v. City of Detroit Historic District Commission be upheld.

Motion: Ferraro

Second: Dean Anderson

Vote: 8-0

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

January 19, 2024

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Devan Anderson

Second: Hobia

Vote: 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Nathan Nietering