

Historic Preservation Commission

Regular Meeting

February 27th, 2023

The Milford Historic Preservation Commission held a Special Meeting on Monday, February 27th, 2023, in the Parsons Government Building. Vice Chairwoman Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Committee Members Present

B. Silver, Chairman – via phone call.

M. Kramer

J. Kranz

E. Johnson

K. Muller

A. Mower (Alternate)

Also Present

Gail Williams

Excused: C. Colter

Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2023

Commissioners' Johnson and Kranz made and seconded a motion to re-elect Bill Silver to continue serving as Chairman.

There being no further nominations, nominations for chairman were closed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners' Johnson and Kranz made and seconded a motion to elect Michele Kramer to continue servings as vice chair.

There being no further nominations, nominations for vice chair were closed.

Consideration of the minutes of November 16th, 2022

Commissioners' Johnson and Kranz made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16th, 2022, special meeting, meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

1. Review of UI Transmission Line CT Siting Council Hearings/Status

Vice chairwoman Kramer and Chairman Silver- no new information on transmission lines. Vice chairwoman Kramer stated we are stuck and our input is finished. Cited our concerns and so far we are not satisfied with counter measures.

Conversation ensued about the Smith funeral home to be a local restaurant turned into local offices and how it serves the people of Milford.

Kranz asked about accountability. Would Attorney Berchem have more answers as to how the Smith funeral home that was supposed to be a restaurant to serve the community can turn into an office that only serves a few people. Chairman Silver chimed in and mentioned Attorney Berchem may not have much information either but it is worth talking about.

2. Commission's outreach efforts and general readiness

i. First Step: Outreach program, spending the 2022/23 Aldermanic allotment.

Johnson said author is still on board to publish. Vice chairwoman Kramer stated we tried to identify certain historic houses in town. Ask homeowner why they decided to buy historic home in Milford.

Vice Chairman Kramer stated she is going to reach out to the Mary Hepburn Smith House homeowner and see where she gets, to hopefully get more information.

Mower talked to broadcasting teacher at Jonathan Law to pass along information to see if anyone would be interested in helping with outreach techniques such as publishers. Conversation ensued about being able to offer them volunteer hours.

Minute with the Mayor- a good way to get outreach, could reach thousands of people.

Mower mentioned to see if Laurelton wants to do an interview. Vice Chairwoman Kramer asked Mower to reach out to them.

Johnson asked to reach out to Milford Point Hotel Audubon Society.

Mower said we definitely should do social media.

Johnson said the use of a YouTube channel can be beneficial as well.

Discussion ensued about what draws people to historic homes.

Johnson said wouldn't take up much space on the city server- would just be a link.

New Business

a. North Broad Street Cremation Office Restoration

No new update.

b. Inquiry from Realtor- Gail Williams (Realtor), Milford local, very involved with Fairfield Historic Society. Familiar with historic preservation. Stated Fairfield used to do house tours and garden tours to get the community interested to express the importance of the preservation. Vice Chairwoman Kramer was hoping we could get more realtors to celebrate historic homes instead of being afraid to talk about historic homes to potential buyers. Kranz stated we want feedback from realtors too, to see what the community is saying. Johnson said we want to see where the market is going and if people are gravitating towards these types of homes or not.

Conversation ensued about other neighboring towns who are modernizing their town instead of preserving their history.

Vice Chairwoman Kramer stated she would like to schedule a panel discussion for late spring with the Milford Preservation Trust about ways to preserve things and cherish our historic society.

G. Williams stated she would talk to the Fairfield Historic Preservation Commission to see how they ran.

Mower asked if any historic houses do Porch Fest? Maybe those houses would be open to doing an open house. Brief discussion ensued.

b. Other New Business

none

Consideration of Payment Requisitions

None.

Adjournment

Being no further business to discuss, Commissioners' Johnson and Kranz made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly L. Iuliano
Recording Secretary