

**Historic District Commission
Minutes Of April 2, 2025**

151 Martin Street, City Commission Room 205, Birmingham, MI

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Historic District Commission ("HDC") held April 2, 2025.
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1) Roll Call

Present: Chair Dustin Kolo; Board Members Timothy Collins, Gigi Debbrecht, Michael Willoughby; Alternate Board Members Mary Jaye, Steven Lemberg

Absent: Vice Chair Keith Deyer; Board Members Patricia Lang, Natalia Dukas

Staff: Planning Director Dupuis; City Transcriptionist Eichenhorn

2) Approval of the HDC Minutes of February 19, 2025

04-03-25

Motion by Collins

Seconded by Jaye to approve the February 19, 2025 minutes.

Motion carried, 6-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Kolo, Jaye, Willoughby, Lemberg, Debbrecht, Collins

Nays: None

4) Courtesy Review

5) Historic Design Review

6) Sign Review

7) Study Session

A. Historic Preservation Master Plan

PD Dupuis presented the item and answered informational questions from the HDC.

HDC members raised the following points during discussion:

- The outline looked appropriate and was organized logically.
- Collaboration with the Birmingham Museum on this process would be welcome.
- It would be helpful to include information about the HDC and the HDSC with respect to the role that citizens and citizen government plays in historic preservation.
- The staff report was consistent with the HDC's previous discussion on the topic.
- Photos of historic resources should be completed before tree foliage returns.
- Written HDC member notes regarding historic resource conditions should be submitted along with their photo submissions.

B. Historic Plaques

PD Dupuis presented the item and answered informational questions from the HDC.

HDC members raised the following points during discussion:

- If the date of construction is unavailable, an estimate can be denoted with a 'c.' for circa before the year.
- The quality of the plaques will help convey the City's respect for its historic resources.
- It would be appropriate to further specify the historic nature of the resource on the plaques, as opposed to only referencing the name of the historic resource, the year built, and the City.
- Keeping the signage simple is appropriate.
- The year may sufficiently convey the time of establishment, without needing the word 'built' on the plaque.
- Not every historic resource will have been built in a single year, since some historic resources have had additions.
- The proposed green background and oval shape of the plaques were well-received by the HDC.

C. Wallace Frost Program

PD Dupuis presented the item and answered informational questions from the HDC.

HDC members raised the following points during discussion:

- There could be a brochure or online guide indicating each house's address, year of establishment, and historic designation if applicable. If the home is not historically designated, the owners' names should not be provided.
- VC Deyer has a good deal of this information already documented.
- Lawn signs could have a QR code that would bring viewers to the City's Wallace Frost Program webpage.
- It is appropriate to offer some information on each site's significance. Providing an original photo for each resource could also help pique interest.
- Collaboration with the Birmingham Museum on this project would be helpful as well.
- It might be possible to table in Shain Park during the Birmingham Parade to increase awareness about this program.
- Staff provided a good foundation for this process. The present proposal also seemed realistic in terms of capacity.
- Publicizing this program in the local newspapers would be valuable.

8) Miscellaneous Business and Communication

A. Pre-Application Discussion

B. Draft Agenda

C. Staff Reports

1. Administrative Sign Approvals

2. Administrative Approvals

3. Demolitions

4. Action List

D. Communications

8) Adjournment

No further business being evident, the HDC motioned to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

A blue ink signature, appearing to read 'Nick Dupuis', written in a cursive style.

Nick Dupuis, Planning Director

A black ink signature, appearing to read 'Laura Eichenhorn', written in a cursive style.

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist

APPROVED