

Minutes for Historic Preservation Committee Meeting August 15, 2017 at City Building, Park Hills.

Attendees: Pam Spoor, Greg Claypole, Karl Oberjohn, Matt Mattone, Jim Claypool, Patty Kestner, Lu Ann Holmes, Ron Heideman

Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Pam Spoor. Ron Heideman, former Park Hills Police Chief, was introduced to the group and welcomed as a new member of the committee.

Pam facilitated a review of the details for the first History of Park Hills lecture on Sept. 7 at Behringer Crawford Museum featuring Dr. Paul Tenkotte. Committee will also use this opportunity to advertise future events, sell t-shirts and promote the photo call. Suggestion to include an rsvp for all marketing for a ballpark of crowd attendance.

For 9/7/2017 event: Committee Members volunteered as follows:

Event details-

Jim: Contact Dr. Tenkotte for any handouts that will be reproduced, also verify equipment needs with speaker and museum.

Pam: Coordinate museum logistics and Bob Amatt who is recording this event.

Greg/Ron: Coordinate the photo call activities

Patty/Lu Ann: Resupply T-shirts and offer for sale

????: need to create a script for introduction, overview of committee, speaker series, various activities of the evening, who will be MC?

Hospitality-Plan for 75

Lu Ann: cookies/small bite dessert

Patty: chips/small waters

Pam: Finger Sandwiches

Marketing Tasks-

Patty: Printed signage for various entrances to Park Hills for pre-event marketing. 7 needed.

Pam: Using Nextdoor posting information, will add to Museum website, will contact Community Recorder, River City Press, KET, News Media (Katherine Nero, Trish Macke, Rob Braun, etc).

All: Help with marketing/Pam through personal contacts especially sharing media contacts

Karl: Communications committee will create a uniform post, to be added to City Website and Facebook page, also potentially used in a flyer delivered throughout the city. Goal is for this concept to be utilized for future events.

Greg: Digital Sign

All: Post on individual Facebook pages and invite prior residents

Initial publication on Nextdoor has occurred:

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PARK HILLS

Dr. Paul Tenkotte will offer the first of our History of Park Hills lectures on September 7, 2017 at 7:00pm at Behringer Crawford Museum. Dr. Tenkotte is professor and director of the Center for Public History at NKU. His doctoral concentration areas include historic preservation/archival administration. His scholarship is so extensive that only a few highlights will be mentioned: coeditorship with Dr. James Claypool of the Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky as well as numerous other books dealing with aspects of regional urban history, PBS documentaries notably the Emmy winning *Where the River Bends* and *Sacred Spaces*. We are most fortunate to have a person of Dr. Tenkotte's depth and accomplishment lecture on the history of Park Hills. There is no charge for the lecture. Light refreshments will be provided. Please make time in your schedule to learn more of the history of our Park Hills.

The Lecture:

Streetcar Suburb: The Planned Community of Park Hills, Kentucky

On rolling hills, adjacent to Covington and its massive Devou Park, the planned community of Park Hills took shape in the 1920s. Tudor and Colonial Revival homes, many designed by architects, lined curvilinear, tree-covered streets. Public sidewalks radiated to all areas of the city, tying residents to handsome stone streetcar shelters. Convenience and beauty were the watchwords of the Lee and Simmons Development Company in building this suburban community, literally only minutes away from the densely populated urban core of Cincinnati, Ohio. Park Hills was the epitome of the American Dream, to work in the city, but to retreat each evening to a bucolic and restful setting, where tending gardens and mowing lawns became relaxing pastimes.

Further discussion continued about next topics. Most discussed was use of historic tax credits and architectural styles. Consensus that historic tax credits could spur engagement with community. Pam will ask for a speaker from Kentucky Heritage Council to attend to share the current status of Park Hills in their program and announce at the lecture on Sept 7. Committee suggested early to mid November as a target date. Karl will present his experience in achieving the credit. Will ask one maybe two other residents to share their stories. More thought to be given to the topic for third in series.

A suggestion to review the non-contributing homes in the current historic district map for current compliance was made. The process of how to pursue expanding across Dixie Highway was briefly discussed. Matt shared that homes are individually evaluated for inclusion. Volunteers do the work. Review of initial survey method suggested—Judy Schulte mentioned as a resource, as well as Kentucky Heritage Council.

Patty reported that our T-shirt sales at the parade netted a profit of \$252 dollars, of which \$40 went to restocking the gray version of the shirt. Lu Ann will give the shirt stock and \$212 to Julie Alig by end of week for deposit to our account. Additional images, colors, potential development of a series will be explored in advance of the lecture series. Profits are earmarked for Historical marker signage to be determined.

Jim Claypool gave an update on the Park Hills publication. It appears that Arcadia/History Press merger has changed enough that we should consider other options for better flexibility. Jim shared experience with other publishing houses, including Clarity Press, who seem to be adaptable to our needs. The group discussed publishing topically or chronologically, with chronologically being the committee's decision. Ron shared his collection of old articles and police force pictures with the group. It was also agreed that we would include an appendix that listed past members of various officials/city groups to

recognize service and perhaps spur additional audiences to purchase the book. A target date for information collection is set as February 1, 2018.

In discussing a potential historic overlay for Park Hills, many topics were introduced in consideration that implementing a true historic overlay is a long and complicated process. Discussion points centered around steps that would move the city forward quickly in managing teardown and infill, educating residents of benefits of historic preservation credits, the need/desire to consider the boundaries of inclusion for historic district, and exploring various levels of historic overlay through Kentucky Heritage Council/PDS/neighborhood cities.

Summary of discussion points:

Matt: suggestions on how to accomplish the surveys required to update existing and add to designation of historic district

Pam: will bring the idea of a Tier II encroachment permit to the next caucus meeting for community input.

General: Suggesting verification of flag lot regulations, and review other established zoning that help to regulate unexpected opportunities for existing properties.

Karl: Would like to talk about style options, standards and landscaping within the context of our proposals to community

Many: application to new construction only, what is in the middle between where we are now compared to a true historic overlay, how is this managed and enforced. Conversation with PDS should be initiated once we have a consensus on direction.

Patty/Lu Ann: shared conversations that the residents brought up during the T-shirt sales at Parade. Interest from community to understand just what the committee was doing. Many direct questions to the relationship between the HP committee and the Protect Park Hills Integrity signs around the neighborhood. What is Park Hills integrity and what are we protecting? After going around the table with the committee, it was clear that the committee did not have a consistent vision about this, so what is best way to understand what the community at large wants to see.

Matt: proposed using the format of the Amsterdam corridor session to understand the **Preserve, Protect, Promote** from a community perspective which would then be used to inform the committee's direction and focus. Much discussion by the committee on how to select topics that would benefit all. Committee's decision was to ask attendees at Lecture #1 to complete survey. Survey would include preferences to next topics for lecture series as one section. Second section would have bullet points under each of the **Preserve, Protect, Promote** headings. This would be a quick way to gather information from a larger population sample and be useful information to share with other committees such as communication for branding development, the tree board and others. Jim suggested that we provide topics/guides rather than have open responses. Committee responsibility will be to provide those topics/guides to Lu Ann by Sept 1 so that the survey can be developed. Completed surveys will make participant eligible for a door prize-Lu Ann will work on the door prize but worst case would be a T-shirt.

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Based on this spirited but informative discussion, it became clear that the committee's ability to move forward is tied to a better understanding of how it can serve the needs of the community. The survey will be step one of moving toward the facilitated discussion event for information gathering. Having the historical credits as the next lecture topic will also tie into educating residents on some of the terminology and ideas around historical preservation and the value it can bring to a community.

A brief review of historical Marker options ended with Trolley Park and White Horse Tavern as best options. Jim will create verbiage. Committee discussed this as an idea for community sponsors-to be continued at next meeting. Oral histories were briefly mentioned as another way to document Park Hills history.

Thank you to Ron for sharing his research which spurred random ideas and conversation as the meeting was adjourning at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lu Ann Holmes