
**PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BYRD CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE
REGULAR VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

April 19, 2022
Pittsfield Township Administration Building
6201 W. Michigan Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonenberger, Hanel-Gerdenich, Hunter, LeClair, Paas,
Scribner, E. Wall, M. Wall

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richards

OTHERS PRESENT: Kimberley Johnson

1.0 Call Meeting to Order/Determination of a Quorum

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

2.0 Roll Call and Announcement of Location

Members Present: Bonenberger (Meeting Remotely at City of Ann Arbor)
Hanel-Gerdenich (Meeting Remotely at City of Ann Arbor)
Hunter (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)
LeClair (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)
Paas (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)
Scribner (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)
E. Wall (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)
M. Wall (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)

Members Absent: Richards

3.0 Chair Hanel-Gerdenich led the Committee in a moment of silence for those who have lost their lives to COVID-19 and for those who have lost their lives or are fighting for their lives from the conflict in Ukraine.

4.0 Open Meetings Act/Public Comment

Under the Open Meetings Act, any person may come forward at this time to address the Committee. Anyone who wishes to speak is requested but not required to state his/her name and address for the record.

No one Spoke

5.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion by Vice Chair Paas, supported by Member Scribner to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

6.0 Approval of Minutes for February 15, 2022

Motion by Vice Chair Paas, supported by Member Hunter to approve the minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

7.0 Scheduled Guests

None

8.0 Expenditures

None

9.0 Officer Report

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich emailed a draft of the Report to the Committee for review, corrections, and any additional information that should be included. Vice Chair Paas discussed some corrections that he made to the Report.

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich suggested dividing the draft of the Report into sections for the Committee members to review and edit.

Member Bonenberger will review the Statement of Significance and early history of Dr. David R. Byrd and Raleigh Nelson.

Members E. Wall and M. Wall will review the 19th century history of the property from the ownership of Ralph Updike through Sperry-Wilsey.

Member Hunter will review the history of Dr. David R. Byrd.

Vice Chair Paas will review the Architectural Description section of the Report.

10.0 Old Business

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich and the committee discussed the title of the Report and the name of the property to include the history and ownership of the Byrd Center property. After thorough discussion, the Committee agreed to title the Report *The David R. Byrd Center at the Wilsey-Sperry Farm*.

11.0 New Business

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich shared a screen view of the Plat Map Detail of Pittsfield Township from 1856 and 1915 showing the connections and history of the Wilsey-Sperry Farm. Member Ed Wall suggested using the Library of Congress Maps division online to get a quality copy of the Plat Map from 1956.

The committee reviewed sections of the Report collectively and made corrections. Vice Chair Paas suggested including the intervention of the I-94 expressway and its effect on the reduction of the property, as well as its impact on the Township and surrounding community.

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich will follow up with Reverend Summers to schedule a visit to the Chapel.

Member Scribner will research the identifying tags that are on some of the trees on the property. Chair Hanel-Gerdenich would like to inquire of the age and the significance of the trees to the history of the property. She will include the trees, if they have historical significance, to the “Summary of Resources at the Byrd Center” section on page 17 of the Report. Member Bonenberger shared a screenshot of one of the tagged trees. He emailed a picture of the tree to the Committee.

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich discussed the list of historical resources that are listed in the “Summary of Resources at the Byrd Center”, as the Commission will be responsible to protect or evaluate the impact of any proposed projects or changes to the historical resources that are specified in the Report.

The Historic District Commission is charged with keeping the ordinance of historical preservation of the exterior of the property once the property is marked as a Historical District.

Member Bonenberger commended Chair Hanel-Gerdenich on her exceptional work in making a compelling report.

12.0 Next Meeting

21 June 2022, 1:30 p.m.

13.0 Adjournment

Motion by Member LeClair, supported by Vice Chair Paas to adjourn the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED