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MELROSE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MONDAY JANUARY 6, 2025 @ 7PM

This meeting of the Melrose Historical Commission was conducted via in-person participation in the Cassidy Room of City Hall, Melrose

CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Melrose Historical Commission was called to order by Chair Kimberly Marolda at 7:02PM. Members in attendance included Vice Chair Tom Champoux, Treasurer Shane Egan, Secretary Rebecca Blumenthal, Darren Brown, George Biblios and Joseph Hunt. There were no members of the public present.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

The first order of business was to approve the previous meeting's minutes from December 2, 2024. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

The second order of business was to open the forum for comments from the public, of which there were none.

DISCUSSION

I. ***Review Public Comment Policy***

There was no need to review the Public Comment Policy as no members of the public were present.

II. ***Presentation of Local Home / Building Research***

a. Member Darren Brown presented his research on a home cataloged in MACRIS that once stood in his neighborhood of School St.

b. The 1855 Cape that once stood on Batchelder St. was moved between the years 1885-1890. In the early 20th c. it was moved again and positioned closer to the street within its lot. It was torn down and replaced with new construction in the past two years

c. He focused his research on the Robertson/Fuller family that owned the home for the longest period of time, into the 1950s. They made a living through farming and raising chickens on their property, according to early records.

d. As well as MACRIS, Darren Brown utilitzed the following resources: Sanborn maps, census data, local newspapers, city directories, among others.

III. ***MS Clarke Historical Recognition Award***

a. *See 6.5.24 meeting minutes for earlier discussion of the creation of an honorary annual award for the purpose of recognizing a deserving recipient for their demonstrated commitment to the celebration and preservation of the history of Melrose, Massachusetts.*

b. The Commission plans to share a press release with local print and online social media outlets in February to seek nominations for the next recipient. Tom Champoux will rework the previous documents to be finalized at the February meeting.

c. The Commission hopes to make the next award presentation to a deserving recipient in conjunction with the City's birthday celebrations scheduled for May.

IV. ***Historic Home Plaque Program Project Update***

a. *See 10.16.23 meeting minutes for a summary of the Historic Home Plaque Program.*

b. The number of applications for a home historical plaque currently stands at three.

c. Kimberly Marolda will pass along the three approved applications to Joe Hunt who has volunteered to bring them to Makarian Signs.

d. Joe Hunt shared with the Commission that his contact at Makarian Signs has volunteered to handle all ensuing contact with the customers/homeowners after receiving the Commission-approved applications, saving a lot of back and forth for the Commission.

e. Joe Hunt will request that Makarian contact him when these initial plaques are completed so the Commission can arrange a photo op in conjunction with a photo-op to continue promoting the program.

V. ***Research Your Home Night Recap***

a. *See 8.12.24 meeting minutes for a summary of Research Your Home Night.*

b. Venues continue to be pursued for the next event planned for spring 2025.

c. Tom Champoux is in communication with the Temple and Rebecca Blumenthal will contact the VFW on Main Street for updated information on the venues AV and capacity.

VI. ***Update on 2025 City Birthday Celebration Planning***

a. *See 8.12.24 meeting minutes for more information on the 2025 City Birthday Celebration.*

b. There are no updates. Kimberly Marolda will pass along the contact information of the mayor's point person for this event, Thomas Dalton, to Shane Egan.

VII. ***Cataloging of Historical Items Held by the City***

Shane reached out to the new permanent City Clerk to discuss what historical items and documents are held in the City Hall. He will meet with the City Clerk this week and follow up with Memorial Hall and Fire Department soon. This would be a first step in the Commission creating an inventory of city-owned historical memorabilia.

VIII. ***Other Business***

Chair Marolda announced that tonight is her last meeting as Chair. She will be stepping down from her position and from the Commission. Shane Egan volunteered to step into the position of Chair, with a vote of unanimous support. Darren Brown volunteered to take over Shane's duties as Treasurer. The Commission thanked Chair Marolda for all she has done during her tenure.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, February 3, 2025, at 7pm in the Cassidy Room of City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Marolda at 8:10pm.