

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission  
Minutes  
Athens City Hall, City Council Chambers  
January 9, 2017

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**1. Call to Order**

Commission chairman Keith Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. Members present include Mr. Chapman, Joanne Prisley, Cyrus Moore, Guy Philips, Mary Anne Reeves and Pam Callahan. Quorum was established. Guests present included John Valentour and Conor Morris (Athens News). Paul Logue recorded minutes.

**2. Disposition of Minutes**

The minutes from November 14, 2016 were reviewed by the commission. Guy Philips made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted to the commission. Cyrus Moore seconded Mr. Philips motion. All voted in favor of approving the minutes. The motion carried.

**3. Next Meeting**

February 13, 2017 at 5:30 PM at Athens City Hall

**4. Old Business**

a. Historic district expansion and review—Paul Logue reported that city council included \$20,000 in the 2017 city budget for this project. He sent out an RFP for this in late 2016 and received three proposals. Two of which came in just under \$20K and the other at around \$27K. Paul reported that he would like to apply for an Ohio development services pipeline initiative grant for this if the commission would like to move forward with it. The commission was supportive of this project.

b. Park Place/Small Homes—Paul reported that these campus committees have met separately. The university is interested in several strategies with the small homes as campus planner Shawna Bolin reported at the November preservation commission meeting. The Park Place planning project will have an open house in late January on campus and also at the community center. Mr. Logue was not aware of dates and times for those meetings yet. Ms. Prisley expressed concerns regarding changes to Park Place that could compromise its historic nature. The Athens Messenger's John Halley had a photo and brief opinion piece that was critical of OU's stewardship of Pilcher House in Sunday's edition.

c. Ridges—Mr. Moore and Paul Logue attended the information sessions that the university held earlier this day. Moore also attended the buildings tour that was held in the morning. They summarized the presentation for the commission. The purpose of the meetings today was to present and have Q & A with interested parties on a public/private partnership opportunity that OU announced in late 2016. The university is looking for development proposals that are in line with the Ridges Framework Plan that was completed in 2015. Conor Morris asked commission members what they thought of this process and

what the university was proposing. Paul stated that he was supportive of preservation and was optimistic that this process would be a means to that. He also liked that it was in line with the framework plan which he and Pam Callahan were both actively involved in. Mr. Morris discussed the RFP/RFI process that was outlined at the meeting earlier today. Mr. Logue thought that the university was still trying to pin down their process for developers as they haven't done a project such as this in the past.

## **5. New Business**

a. Commission 2017 work discussion—the commission discussed possible projects and goals for 2017. Among the items discussed were expanding the uptown historic district, getting council legislation for uptown review authority, tax abatements for historic property improvements, public education and outreach including issuing awards or plaques, inviting preservation supporters from other communities to present to us on what they are doing, and walking tours.

## **6. Announcements and Updates**

Mr. Logue reported that Mayor Patterson does not plan to make any changes to preservation commission membership in response to a letter sent by Cindy Johnson to Mayor Patterson, City Council, and Ohio History Connection.

## **7. Adjournment**

With all agenda items satisfied Mr. Philips made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Chapman seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.