

City of Erie
Historic Preservation Task Force
Regular Meeting Agenda
November 13, 2019

A regular meeting of the Erie Historic Preservation Task Force will be held Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 at 3:30 pm in Room 500 of the City of Erie Municipal Building, 626 State Street, Erie, PA 16501

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

<i>Member</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Emily Aloiz	X	
Dave Brennan	X	
Melissa Hake	X	
Elizabeth Kelly	X	
Melinda Meyer	X	
Chuck Scalise	X	
Mark Steg		X

Advisory Committee: J. Tushak, J. Welsh, M. Kloeker, B. Callahan, J. Gorney, K. Wyrosdick

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 3:40pm

2. Approval of Minutes from regular meeting of October 9th, 2019

M. Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by M. Hake. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. New Business

- a. Certified Local Government (CLG) certification and next steps – B. Callahan and K. Wyrosdick

B. Callahan said the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) manages CLGs within the state, but the program is Federal. Pennsylvania receives Federal Historic Preservation Funds and must give at least 10% to CLGs. There are 43 CLGs in the commonwealth, 10-12 apply for grants a year, all grants have been awarded with a 10-50% match. The CLG grants are separate from the Keystone Grants that are open to everyone.

In order to become a CLG, a local government must have a stand-alone ordinance or zoning overlay district for historic preservation, management rules in place, and a survey of historic properties including its maintenance spelled out. Specifically: Mayor's letter, copy of ordinance, benchmarks for management of history property survey and plans with a historic preservation component. A minimum of 1 historic preservation district must be designated. K. Wyrosdick suggested North Park Row where EDDC is working could be a potential 1st district.

While there are National Register of Historic Places designated districts, the City of Erie does not have a locally regulated historic district. A locally regulated district does not have to be on the National Register. There is a historic preservation place holder in the zoning ordinance as required by the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code (MPC).

K. Wyrosdick said Historic Preservation is mentioned in the City’s recent comprehensive plan, Erie Refocused, but it is not significant. There are other plans such as the Erie County Cultural Heritage Plan. A resolution can be created to formulize the where Historic Preservation has been addressed in plans and the work the Task Force is doing.

B. Callahan would help the City of Erie put an application together for a GLG but the final designation is given by the National Park Service (NPS).

There are two ways to establish a historic preservation ordinance to satisfy the requirements of the Certified Local Government. There are not mutually exclusive. Both can be done!

Zoning Overlay	Stand-Alone Ordinance
Flexible on the implementation	This is allowed from the 1.5 page long 1961 Historic District Act
Zoning does not have much power to stop demolition because an empty lot does not change use. A stand-alone demolition ordinance could be created.	A historic preservation review board would make recommendations directly to City Council.
Changing zoning is a lengthy process. Zoning maps would have to be amended.	This could happen quickly with public support. There is potentially more control than through zoning.
There is already a review board and process in place.	This has more power to fight demolitions.
	This has been challenged in court.

The City will define design guidelines using a consultant. B. Callahan said that some areas have used the Secretary of Interior Standards as a stand-in for design guidelines to get the ball rolling, but the City needs to develop its own criteria eventually.

J. Welsh suggested a zoning overlay could reference design guidelines in another document so that the zoning does not have to be changed every time a design criteria changes. To change the zoning is a lengthy process. The process includes council authorizing the planning commission to recommend a change, the commission deliberating and then making a recommendation back to council.

K. Wyrosdick asked J. Welsh about zoning map amendments. When and if does a property owner have to be notified of a change to their property’s zoning? J. Welsh responded that when a property is rezoned the owners must be notified by mailing. Clarity is needed whether all properties within a 500ft radius would also need to be notified.

To establish an ordinance, the task force would make a recommendation to council and the Mayor, they would pass the question to the planning commission, the commission would make

recommendations to council. Two readings, public hearings and mailings to property owners would all have to be included in the process. The City's solicitor would need to be involved.

E. Kelly asked about the role of Erie City Council and Mayor. K. Wyrosdick said both need to be included. In addition, the planning commission is integral to whatever process is selected.

M. Meyer suggested investigating other communities to understand the pros and cons of using zoning vs a stand-alone ordinance.

Upon the departure of the committee chair vice chair, M. Meyer, assumed the duties of chair.

b. Formation of subcommittees to work on next steps

K. Wyrosdick suggested breaking into subcommittees. M. Kelly suggested dividing into group for those who are dreamers and those who are practical.

- Ordinance research: E. Kelly, M. Meyer
- Property survey and community engagement: E. Aloiz, M. Hake, M. Meyer, C. Scalise

At the time of the division, M. Steg and D. Brennan were not present.

Discussion of a subcommittee to work on the CLG application was discussed, but was determined to not be needed at this time. The ordinance must come first.

Emails about the committees will go to everyone including the advisory committee so that those who would like to participate are able to.

4. Old Business

Review of Taskforce Goals and Objectives

The task force reviewed the document prepared by K. Wyrosdick. If anyone has any edits, please email them to K. Wyrosdick before next Friday.

C. Scalise asked about how and if the Task Force would like to address the old Greyhound Bus station on North Park Row. B. Callahan said that the way the National Register nomination was created for North Park Row, the bus station was a non-contributing structure, although that does not mean it is without significance. The Task Force will keep the structure in mind moving forward.

5. Adjourn

M. Hake made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by M. Meyer. The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.