

City of Erie
Historic Preservation Task Force
Regular Meeting Agenda
May 27, 2020

A regular meeting of the Erie Historic Preservation Task Force will be held Wednesday, May 27th, 2020 at 4:00 pm via a virtual meeting from 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 | |
| Melinda Meyer | X | |
| Chuck Scalise | X | |
| Mark Steg | X | |

Erin Carey, Katherine Wyrosdick, William Callahan, Liz Allen, Frank Strumilia

2. Approval of Minutes from regular meeting March 11th, 2020

M. Steg made a motion, E. Aloiz seconded it

3. New Business

- a. Active Transportation Plan for the City of Erie: ActivErie and planned historic and unique walking tours – K Wyrosdick and F Strumilia

As part of the City Active Transportation Plan, routes that are walked or biked are being collected. M. Steg mentioned the Historical Society has at least two well documented walking tours.

M. Meyer: Preservation Erie tours available on the HelloErie app: Gems of the City tour and West Bayfront Walking Tour; others in development: Sacred Spaces Tour and Millionaire’s Row Tour (this will overlap with the Historic Society).

Others:

- Erin Phillips Old Erie On Foot tour
- walking tour of the Erie Cemetery
- Bike Tour: Network to Freedom Bike Trail. It is a national trail.
- Driving Tour of the County: African American Heritage Tour
- Mural Tour by Art Museum

To consolidate all of these re-sources, K. Wyrosdick said to bring them together into GIS. Erin can make the map. In GIS, many resources can be put in one spot. Other things are community gardens and art could be potentially linked into tours.

4. Old Business

a. Update on Keystone Grant for Design Guidelines – M Meyer

Preservation Erie reached out to Karen Arnold at the SHOP to ask about the status of funding due to Covid-19 funding challenges. She was unsure. The SHPO has continued with the review process and formulated a funding recommendation. State legislation proposed to deal with financial constraints of the pandemic would severely impact state historic preservation funding. Preservation Erie has contacted legislators through email and written letters. Union City, Girard and Corry also sent letters.

B. Callahan said this legislation has the potential to void previously awarded grants.

b. Develop neighborhood toolkit designed to help neighborhood groups understand and plan for historic preservation – M Meyer

<https://www.design.upenn.edu/pennpraxis/work/neighborhood-preservation-toolkit-0>

This toolkit was developed for Philadelphia, but could be very useful for the City of Erie's existing community groups in the Neighborhood Growth Partnership. C. Scalise said the outline of a toolkit is very useful. Both formal and informal resources are great to have. K. Wyrosdick said that some of the toolkit was very useful to people who aren't versed in historic survey.

A vista intern, Megan, will be available in July to help move this initiative forward. M. Meyer said she would be happy to engage with this process. The residents and homeowners are the ones caring for the majority of historic assets in the City of Erie. M. Hake said that she would also like to work on this initiative. K. Wyrosdick suggested June discussions with the Neighborhood Growth Partnership.

M. Steg asked about the differences between the Titusville Design Guidelines and the neighborhood preservation toolkit. M. Meyer responded that way the plans were developed and their structure is different. Neighborhood preservation is a wider subject and not tied to national register designation. B. Callahan suggested to think of the toolkit is an encyclopedia. The application for a Keystone Grant for design guidelines for the City of Erie would be like the Titusville example—it would be a specific design manual.

K. Wyrosdick mentioned that the toolkit needs to be supported by an official body with legislation and staff to have a lasting impact.

c. Survey update – County to created Survey 123, need volunteers to help gather information – K Wyrosdick

i. Historic elements survey <https://arcg.is/uH4OX>

ii. Property conditions survey for downtown <https://arcg.is/1ubT8b>

The SHPO and the City have already created a boundary area for a proposed “Lower State Street Historic District”. This would be an ideal area for the task force do a pilot survey with the Survey 123 App.

Erin Carey demonstrated the ErieHistoricSurvey app that was previously created to go along with the City of Erie’s property condition survey. The information is uploaded into the City’s GIS system. The Trinity Park Field Survey was also shown. It takes 30 seconds to 1 minute per structure for the condition survey.

B. Callahan cautioned that the survey questions should be updated for the specific purpose of historic district creation. A determination of contributing/non-contributing status is needed. He will check with a colleague about other needed questions. M. Meyer mentioned the need to incorporate other sites, objects and structures like Preservation Erie did during the Lawrence Park Historic District survey.

The SHPO and the City will coordinate to finalize the needed questions and send links to all of the taskforce members to access the survey.

The survey will take place: June the 11th at 3:30pm

d. Revised plan for creation of an Historic Review Commission – K Wyrosdick

K. Wyrosdick presented a plan to move legislation forward for the creation of a Historic Review Commission and then obtain Certified Local Government status for the City of Erie. The Next step is to have City Council approve a plan to amend Article 7 in the zoning ordinance to allow historic overlay districts to be reviewed and enforced. Legislation and process is needed to move the task force’s objectives forward.

D. Brennan suggested a study session for City Council with a PowerPoint presentation. L. Allen agreed. The presentation could be given to City Council in June or July at one of their Thursday at 5:30pm meetings.

M. Meyer said she wants to make sure landmark designation or a form of local historic resource listing is part of the legislation.

Once City Council approves the plan, work will begin to draft the legislation, garner public support and the support of the planning commission.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:18pm

