

**FARMINGTON HILLS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
31555 WEST ELEVEN MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48336
JUNE 14, 2023**

CALLED TO ORDER BY: CHAIR TULAS AT 6:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: TULAS, KLEMMER, TRAFELET, PAULSON, THOMSON, OLSON.

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kris Canty - Staff Liaison, Meghan Labra - TerraFirma, Brian Murray -Total Home Improvement, Ellen Schnackel – City of Farmington Hills Director of Special Services, Kelly Monaco – City of Farmington Hills Central Services, Michelle Aranowski – City of Farmington Hills Central Services , Anushikha Dogra - Comptek, Brian Moran – City of Farmington Hills Special Services, Chris Medina - Clovity, Steve Cullen – Comptek, Dana Castronova – Comptek, Michael Soganich - Jugano

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Klemmer, support by Trafelet.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Certificate of Appropriateness 23-3

Historic District: HD #312—Sherman-Goodenough House

Location: 27705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Applicant: Ellen Schnackel, City of Farmington Hills

Owner: City of Farmington Hills

Proposal: City proposes to replace the current lighting and install smart lighting in parking lot.

Pole replacements are part of a city-wide initiative to upgrade lighting pilot smart poles. This is the first place in the city to receive the smart poles. These would be used to provide lighting and extended services (Wi-Fi, temperature sensing, camera surveillance, etc...). Lights would go in same locations they are now, with one addition.

Presentation from Comptek regarding light design options and functionality. Poles would be carrying electricity and data lines (some wireless). The data from poles would be coming back to city hall to be managed. Clovity is the company overseeing the project. Michael Soganich presented a specs sheet with pictures on additional light fixture that cast light in a more downward pattern. City would prefer a new pole installed with new luminaire on top versus utilize the existing poles with new tops added. City does not yet have pricing for proposal.

Motion: Approve replacement of existing lights, with addition of one pole, by utilizing option #2 (straight pole) with new fixture on top. The final configuration view and photometric plan will be attached to the file for COA.

Supported by Secretary of Interior Standards:

- *#8 Significant archeological resources affected by project shall be protected and preserved.*
- *#9 New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property.*
- *#10 New additions and adjacent or related construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

Motion by Olson, support by Trafelet.

Motion carried 5 – 1.

Yes: Olson, Trafelet, Paulson, Thomson, Tulas.

No: Klemmer

Certification of Appropriateness 23-4

Historic District: HD #3—The Lemuel Botsford House

Location: 24414 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Applicant: Brian Murray, Total Home Improvement. P.O. Box 930451 Wixom, MI 48393

Owner: John Seymour

Proposal: Owner proposes to install new (1x3) glass-block basement windows.

The current basement windows are from approximately 1960s and not original. There are three (3) windows to be replaced with glass block. The windows will provide ventilation. New windows would provide security and symmetry to the house. One window is at the front of the house. One is near the deck and the final window is on the east side. Discussion regarding appropriateness of replacement.

Motion: Approve the installation of 3 glass block modular windows. The original window frame will be retained and stored for future possible use.

Supported by Secretary of Interior Standards:

- *#9 New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property.*
- *#10 New additions and adjacent or related construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

Motion by Klemmer, support by Paulson

Motion carried 5-1

Yes: Klemmer, Paulson, Tulas, Trafelet, Thomson

No: Olson

Certification of Appropriateness 23-5

Historic District: HD #3—The Lemuel Botsford House

Location: 24414 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Applicant: Meghan Labra, TERRAFIRMA Inc.

Owner: John Seymour

Proposal: Owner proposes to install a black chain link fence along the North side of the property.

Motion: Approve the installation of 4' tall black chain link fence along the North lot line of the property.

Supported by Secretary of Interior Standards:

- *#10 New additions and adjacent or related construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

Motion by Klemmer, support by Olson

Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

A. 36668 Howard – Nehemiah Hoyt House HDC #207 (Staff Concerns)

Zoning noticed that there was a huge hole in the house. Kris Canty verified the problem. No one is living there now. Kris will check city records for owner listing. HDC supports sending notice to owner regarding concerns about demolition by neglect.

Sprague House was also mentioned by Marleen Tulas regarding the poor conditions surrounding this house.

B. Possible Administrative Review Changes (Staff Concerns)

Are there any additional items that can be approved simply by administrative review of the city staff versus having them come to the HDC via the COA route? Staff are encouraged to make suggestions of any items that they think might fall into this category.

C. Farmington Hills 50th Anniversary Celebration Update

Marleen Tulas reported she has not heard back from the committee.

D. Botsford Inn Update

Marleen Tulas reported that painting on Botsford Inn has commenced. Carpenters are making repairs to storm windows. The upper floor railing system has not yet been fixed. Chimney work has not started, and doors are not yet repaired.

E. Gravestone Preservation and Restoration – Virtual Workshop

Commissioners Olson, Tulas, Trafelet, Thomson, Paulson and Councilwoman Knol worked on June 10th at West Cemetery. 5 markers were fixed – 2 excavated, 3 bases raised.

Meeting scheduled with Matt Malone, Alec Thomson, Steve Olson, and John Trafelet is set for Tuesday 6/20 to map out Fall cemetery survey project.

F. Mid-Century Modern Designation Project Update

One homeowner responded to our second follow-up letter. Commissioners Tulas, Thomson, and Paulson have yet to visit the homeowners. The meeting date is set for 6/20.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No Correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No Public Comments.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Jim Paulson noted that there is an archivist in Woodcreek subdivision looking for a place to deposit historical records regarding the neighborhood.

Marleen Tulas discussed the need for business cards for commissioners. There was support for her to investigate this possibility more fully.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (May 10, 2023)

Motion: Approve the May 10, 2023 Minutes.

Motion by Klemmer, supported by Trafelet.
Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Unanimous proclamation at 8:15 PM

Submitted by Kris Canty (06/16/2023)