

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BROWNSTOWN
BEAUTIFICATION / HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 20, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Charter Township of Brownstown Beautification / Historical Commission was held at the Brownstown Township Hall, 21313 Telegraph Road, on Tuesday, November 20, 2012. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pfau at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Pfau, Boritzki, Sheldon, Szymanski and Walters. Also in attendance was Assistant Recreation Director Thomas.

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Golovich

ABSENT: Whitecotton

Members requested that Maxe check into Whitecotton's continued membership intentions.

MINUTE APPROVAL: Motion of Szymanski, supported by Boritzki, to approve the Beautification/Historical meeting minutes of October 16, 2012, as submitted. All present voting aye.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion of Sheldon, supported by Walters, to approve the Beautification / Historical Commission agenda of November 20, as submitted. All present voting aye.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT: Richard Smith introduced Flat Rock Historical Commission representative, Lila Fedokovitz, who was in attendance to provide some history of the Oak Forest Cemetery, located on west Huron River drive just past Kate's Kitchen in Flat Rock, and to request some financial assistance for its maintenance from Brownstown.

In 1968, when Flat Rock became a city and separated from Brownstown, they formalized an agreement to share the responsibility of the Oak Forest Cemetery, which now lies in Flat Rock but contains approximately 345 graves of the Brownstown area residents from 1830 and beyond.

Next year, it will be the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and the Flat Rock Historical Society and Commission would like to hire a cemetery restoration company for an amount of \$1,787.50 to clean up the cemetery for a ceremony being planned. Both groups will be contributing money to the project and are now requesting assistance from Brownstown with this funding since we are part-owner of the cemetery.

Members discussed and requested that Maxe research and compile information for a request to be placed to the Township Board.

Motion of Sheldon, supported by Walters, to concur with the proposal of Lila Fedokovitz of the Flat Rock Historical Commission for the repair of nine grave markers in the Oak Forest Cemetery by Carter Cemetery Restorations of Commerce Township and refer to the Township Board for approval to accept our share of the cemetery maintenance and for a financial contribution towards the restoration of the markers. All present voting aye.

Richard Smith presented the Historical Society report. Not too much has been going on lately. The Society meetings have been held at the Community Center instead of the Museum due to the construction of the event barn next door.

GARDEN PROJECT: Soil samples taken from the Community Garden and tested by MSU Extension Service found the PH level of the soil was way off. Products have been added to correct this and the soil should be in good condition to do well next season. The water lines and dirt are in storage and will be put in near the event barn and museum as they get to that part of the project.

Historical Society member Smith provided a copy of his recommendation for the Historical Museum sign and flag re-location that is being required due to the Township Campus renovations. He based this recommendation on his research and conversations with the Economic Development Director and the Historical Society and was now requesting the Historical Commission's input. Discussion was held on where to relocate these items.

Motion by Boritzski, supported by Sheldon, to accept the Historical Society Report and concur with the recommendations for the Historical Museum sign and flag re-location of Richard Smith from the Brownstown Historical Society as presented and request Maxe refer the information to Economic Development Manager DiSanto and the Downtown Development Authority for approval. All present voting aye.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS: The Campus development project is moving along well. They have moved and reassembled the playground equipment across to the north side of King Road. The underground utilities are being put in for the splash park. New playground equipment locations have been marked. The new sign and clock tower are also coming along. Work will continue as long as the weather continues to be good.

OTHER BUSINESS: Szymanski sent the pictures of the sign to the Southeastern Michigan Beautification Commission (SEMBC) for their 50th Anniversary Brochure as discussed at the last meeting.

The quarterly SEMBC meeting will be held on December 6, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in Dearborn Heights. Members need to respond and pay on their own if they want to attend.

Members were asked to be at the Community Center between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. for the annual Tree Lighting event on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Pfau proposed meeting with DiSanto about the Brownstown signs and seeking his guidance on their locations.

Motion of Szymanski, supported by Boritzski, to request Maxe meet with Economic Development Manager DiSanto regarding the placement of the Brownstown signs and return with his recommendation to the Commission for further review. All present voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion of Walters, supported by Boritzski, to adjourn the Beautification / Historical Commission meeting at 7:59 p.m. All present voting aye.