

**ACTION LETTER**9/21/2020

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**OPENING ROLL CALL: 4:01 PM**

Kathy Smith	Present	Michel Seignette de Ke	Absent
Joseph Towns	Absent	James Conover	Present
Douglas Horn	Present	Donnie Funck	PC Liaison Absent
Gery Keshner	Present	Fred DeMoro	CC Liaison Absent
Martin Owens	Present		

C. Shannon McGuire, Planner &amp; HPC Staff Liaison

Josh Johnson, AICP, Assistant Director of Plan Services

Anita Dickey, Director of Human Resources

Karen Schuler, Commissioner, Human Relations Commission

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

HPC ACTION: On motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Keshner, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously by voice vote to APPROVE the Agenda as published.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes of the February 17, 2020, Historic Preservation Commission meeting

HPC ACTION: On motion of Commissioner Owens and seconded by Commissioner Keshner, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously by voice vote to APPROVE the consent agenda.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

2. Update & Discussion 2020 Ignite Comprehensive Plan update

Josh Johnson introduced himself as the Assistant Director of Plan Services and gave an update to the activities being undertaken for the 2020 Ignite Comprehensive Plan update. He gave a brief overview of the website that has been created for the comprehensive plan update. He explained that there were sections on the web page for the commission to take surveys and have the commission's contribution on the policies and future direction for the community as it relates to historic preservation. He explained that there would be a guided activity for the commission to take part in at a future meeting but the first step would be for the commission to take the surveys on the web site. Mr. Johnson described the need for the commission to take an active role in the comprehensive plan

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update as it would shape the long term goals of the City over the next 5-10 years. He spoke about how this was the opportunity for the commission to have an involvement in the setting of the policy framework and establish the objectives the HPC would like to see undertaken by the City in the future.

Chairperson Smith stated how she remembered when the current comprehensive plan was adopted and how much work it was. She asked for any questions from the commission. Having received none Ms. Smith thanked Mr. Johnson for the updated and prepared to move on to the next item on the agenda.

3. Discussion                      Street Name Change: Todd George

Mr. McGuire introduced Anita Dickey, Director of Human Resources to the commission and gave her the floor to speak about the actions that have been undertaken by the Human Relations Commission (HRC). She explained that she was the staff liaison to that commission. She explained that the HRC had been doing research in preparation for a presentation to the City Council on the posable street name change for Todd George Parkway.

Responding to a question posed by Commissioner Owens Mr. Johnson explained that there no final action was expected to be taken on the street name change during the HRC's presentation. He explained that any final action would need to take place at a later time as no ordinance was presented to the Council yet. Additionally, he explained that the HPC would have an opportunity to speak at the Council presentation for the street name change.

Chairperson Smith introduced Karen Schuler as the HRC representative who has been spearheading the research into Todd George the person and Todd George Parkway. Ms. Schuler explained that the HRC began to look into Todd George a few months back when a petition began circulating online claiming he was a member of the KKK. She explained that the HRC researched documents from the Kansas City Star archives and the MO State Historic archives. She explained that many of the documents were letters and news articles authored by him. She stated that there was no clear evidence of him being a member of the KKK. She stated the documents shoe Todd George denied being a member but that he did acknowledge to attending meetings of the KKK. Ms. Schuler explained that the document and research shows the he was an adherent proponent of segregation and white supremacy throughout his life.

Ms. Schuler stated that as of the HPC meeting there were over 139,000 signatures on the online petition. The HRC feels that there is clear sentiment in the community to have the name changed. She further explained that the HRC was not recommending what to change the name to but were asking the City to take the first steps in the process of renaming the street.

Chairperson Smith spoke that his option was reflective of the time he lived in. She explained that while his actions and words were repugnant, Todd George was an active member of Lee's Summit throughout his long life and did a lot of good for the community.

Chairperson Smith wanted to make it clear that the City did not name the road in question. She also requested that the HPC be forwarded the information and items that the HRC will be presenting to the City Council. Mr. Johnson explained that the items and penetration were available in the City Council pack that is posed on line and a link to the information would be sent to the HPC.

4. Discussion                      LS History Sign & 2020 Graves/Hale Preservation Award

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Mr. McGuire explained to the commission that due to the ongoing health emergency the normal May Preservation Month activities had to be canceled. The awards for the 2020 Graves/Hale Preservation Award had been received but had not yet been presented to the recipients yet. Mr. McGuire also explained that he still had the LS History Sign that was to be installed in Howard Station Park as part of the May Preservation activities as well.

Mr. McGuire explained that the awardees still deserved the awards and asked the commission to have a decision on how they wanted to move forward with ensuring the award recipients were recognized for their contributions.

Commissioners requested Mr. McGuire look into the possibility of the HPC hosting a small ceremony at City Hall to present the awards. Mr. McGuire stated that he would check into the restrictions and report back to the HPC on if that was an option.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

## **ROUNDTABLE**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned At: 4:41 PM