

**MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING NO. 3-2026  
Thursday, March 19, 2026**

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission convened at 7:00 PM

**Commissioners Present:**

Peter Fosselman - Chair  
Seth Denbo, Michael Goldfinger, Anita Neal Powell, and Mercy Shenge

**Staff Present:**

Sheila Bashiri, Preservation Planner  
Megan Flick, Principal Planner  
Cynthia Walters, Deputy City Attorney

**I. COMMITTEE / ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

**A. Peerless Rockville - Katherine Rogers, Archives and Collections Manager**

- In celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States Peerless Rockville will present commemorative programming entitled "Rockville 250: Our American History" which will explore how national themes in American history have unfolded in Rockville over the last two and a half centuries. Activities will take place throughout the year including an illustrated showcase at the Red Brick Courthouse and additional lectures, tours, and special programs throughout the year that offer the opportunity to engage with our local heritage. The first even will be on Tuesday, March 30 at 7:00pm beginning with a virtual presentation on the Hungerford Resolves. Contact Peerless Rockville at [info@PeerlessRockville.org](mailto:info@PeerlessRockville.org) in for more information.
- Chair Pete Fosselman thanked Peerless Rockville for meeting with commissioners to plan the Preservation Month event in May of this year.

**B. Lincoln Park Historical Foundation - Anita Neal Powell, President**

- On February 28, 2026, LPHF celebrated its 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church with a theme of a gospel train ride to freedom, 'Harriet Tubman on the Run,' in addition to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of black history in America.
- In May, LPHF will be hosting the first African American Preservation Conference focusing on preserving black history museums in Montgomery County (date and time to be determined).
- On June 13, 2026 from 9am-4pm, the Lincoln Park community will be celebrating its 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Lincoln Park. The annual celebration will start with a historical parade and will focus on cultural activities throughout the day. All events are open to the public for participation, and members

of the public are invited to share their stories about the community by contacting the LPHF.

- A showcase depicting the Black history throughout Montgomery County is currently located in City Hall.

**C. Public Comments/Open Forum**

- No Comments

**D. HDC and Staff Comments**

- Commissioner Goldfinger continued his series on important historic buildings in Rockville by presenting on the history of the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church. The building known as the Jerusalem Mount Pleasant Parsonage is located at 19 Wood Lane in Town Center. Prior to the Civil War and following racial tensions, the Methodist church split, and by 1868 the African American members of the church owned the property and renamed their church Jerusalem. The parsonage was built in 1912 using lumber milled from trees harvested by the congregation from a church-owned site in Poolesville. It continued to be used as a parsonage until 1986 when the church purchased a new parsonage. The original building became a women's resource center known as Cordelia House. In 1999, Cordelia House was damaged by fire caused by arson. The building was extensively restored in 2005 and is in use today. These two buildings are among the few remaining historic church and parsonage units remaining in Montgomery County. In traditional vernacular style, the parsonage is one of the few remaining examples of this type of building in Rockville's Town Center.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

- Commission Shenge spoke about attending the LPHF's Gospel Ride to Freedom event on February 28<sup>th</sup> and commended Commissioner Powell for her work in the community.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Consent Agenda items may be approved per the Staff Report without discussion. However, any person may request that the Chair remove an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion and public comments before the vote.*

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

February 19, 2026

**Commissioner Mercy Shenge moved to approve the minutes.**

**RESULT: APPROVED 5-0**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Mercy Shenge

**SECOND:** Commissioner Goldfinger

**IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Denbo, Fosselman, Goldfinger, Neal Powell, and Shenge

**III. EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**A. 2026-250-EOS**

**Applicant:** Robert Shapiro, Goshen Valley Investments, LLC  
9000 Goshen Valley Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

**Address:** 718 Beall Avenue

**Request:** Evaluation of Significance (Demolition proposed).

**Commissioner Denbo moved to not recommend application 2026-250-EOS for designation.**

**RESULT: APPROVED 5-0**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Denbo

**SECOND:** Commissioner Goldfinger

**IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Denbo, Fosselman, Goldfinger, Neal Powell, and Shenge

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

March 19, 2026. Agenda Item III-A

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Video time stamp 10:00

**IV. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL**

**A. 2026-250-EOS**

**Applicant:** Kelly Kalepe, Owner

**Address:** 401 West Montgomery Avenue

**Request:** Certificate of Approval to convert the existing concrete slab in the side yard of the property into a patio.

**Commissioner Shenge moved to recommend Approval provided the following conditions are met:**

1. The applicant must remove the existing concrete pad;
2. The applicant must plant privacy evergreen along the length of the west side fence;  
and
3. The work must be completed by May 20, 2026.

**RESULT: APPROVED 4-0**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Shenge

**SECOND:** Commissioner Neal Powell

**IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Denbo, Goldfinger, Neal Powell, and Shenge

**RECUSED:** Commissioner Fosselman

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

March 19, 2026. Agenda Item IV-A

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/player/clip/9302?view\\_id=2&redirect=true](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/player/clip/9302?view_id=2&redirect=true)

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**V. DISCUSSION**

**A. Old Business:**

1. 2026 Preservation Month Event

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

March 19, 2026. Agenda Item V

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/player/clip/9302?view\\_id=2&redirect=true](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/player/clip/9302?view_id=2&redirect=true)

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**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Bashiri

APPROVED