



Village of Plainfield
Historic Preservation Commission
Record of Minutes

Date: February 10, 2011

Location: Village Hall

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE

Chairman Bortel called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Roll call was taken; Commissioners Witt, Bright, Derrick, Olsen, Feagans and Chairman Bortel were present. Commissioners Allen and Spangler were absent. Michael Garrigan –Village Planner; Merrilee Trotz, Recording Secretary was also present.

Chairman Bortel led the pledge to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Bright moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Olsen. Voice vote: All in favor. 0 – opposed. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Derrick suggested amending the minutes from January 13, 2011 to add the Weinhold Barns were added to the watch list. Commissioner Derrick made motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Commissioner Bright, yes; Commissioner Olsen, yes; Commissioner Feagans, yes; Commissioner Witt, yes; Commissioner Derrick, yes; Chairman Bortel, yes; 6 yes, 0 no. 2 absent motion carried.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

Chairman Bortel stated 1) there area vacancies on the Commission and asked if the commissioners knew of anyone who might be interested; 2) indicated the information meetings were held on January 12th and February 3rd and that there was going to be a third information meeting on March 3, 2011.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Olsen asked how many people attended the meeting on February 3rd. Chairman Bortel indicated there were 4 attendees.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Items not on the Agenda)

No one approached the microphone.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Garrigan stated there have been no new applications for landmarks or districts; there have been no pre-application meetings; the Village had received a demolition permit for Lakeside Motel and it was to have come down today. Mr. Garrigan did not know the status of the motel as of this meeting. The watch list remains the same at this time.

Mr. Garrigan stated there have been 2 informational meetings relating to the proposed downtown Historic District. There was discussion at the last informational meeting with regard to the boundary.

Mr. Garrigan stated Preservation Month is May and this will be an opportunity to present historic plaques for the Green-Lutter House and the Moravec business located in the Hagar-Smiley House at the Village Board meeting. Staff is looking for other suggestions to celebrate during Preservation Month.

Mr. Garrigan indicated there have been discussions about creating a new HPC-Mayors Award to recognize and celebrate certain preservation projects. There have been additional discussions for educational opportunities relating to workshops. A few years ago we had a workshop on window restoration.

Mr. Garrigan indicated there are some monies in the budget that all allocated for related workshops. The HPC Budget has been incorporated into the Planning Budget. One line item we have identified is projects and programs in the amount of \$35,000 not specifically all for preservation. This past year we have spend \$10,000 most of which was for the cost of certified letters and a small amount for seminars or workshops. The current budget ends April 30, 2011.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Derrick indicated the timeline has been discussed at the LDDC meetings; reiterating the requirements with regard to the public notice and the meetings of the HPC and Village Board. The HPC would like to submit the nomination draft to IHPA for their approval prior to taking it to the Commission. We are looking at the May or June meeting with the Village Board.

Commissioner Derrick stated the procedure is dictated by the village ordinance. Notices must be sent out thirty (30) days prior to the review. Additional information with regard to how the votes are tallied will be clarified in the notice. A public hearing will be held at the HPC with the recommendation going to the Village Board for their decision.

Discussion was held regarding the boundary of the proposed downtown district; should the HPC go with Route 59 to Fox River on the south and to the house that sits along the alley west of DesPlaines Street on the north with the addition of some commercial properties on DesPlaines Street down to Chicago Street or the recommendation ArchiSearch made for the downtown district which would include the property from Route 59 to Main Street on the north side of Lockport Street and from Route 59 to James Street on the south side of Lockport Street. Mr. Wheeler has asked that his property be excluded from the historic district. Chairman Bortel

stated a demolition permit has been issued for this property. Chairman Bortel further described the properties included in the ArchiSearch proposal. Commissioner Feagans asked about the properties included in the ArchiSearch proposal. Commissioner Feagans asked about the possibility of adding the Methodist Church on Illinois Street. Chairman Bortel and Commissioner Derrick indicated ArchiSearch included this property in a Village Green District which would include residential properties. At the joint meeting with the Village Board, Mrs. O'Connor stated you should not pick and choose people to be in the district for certification purposes. There was discussion on the Teng plan for James Street to continue through to Main Street. Commissioner Olsen asked that the other half of her building and the building behind the lingerie shop be included in the proposed district.

Commissioner Derrick asked about the cutoff date. It should be 1961. Commissioner Derrick said basically it was how tight they were going to make the theme, if it is just commercial; former residential that turned to commercial; the timeframe; consideration of the ArchiSearch survey; and percentages of contributing and non-contributing to have the strongest district.

Chairman Bortel said if the district was formed within the smaller boundary, the properties to the west could petition to join the district. Commissioner Bright asked if there had been any contact with this western area. Chairman Bortel said not yet as the boundary has not been determined.

Commissioner Derrick felt a tight statement of significance, period of significance was needed, and then the Commission could determine the contributing and noncontributing properties to draw the boundary. The boundary is needed for the nomination. Commissioner Olsen asked if the owners of the trolley barn and maybe the Century 21 building have been contacted.

Chairman Bortel said it makes sense to make a determination of the properties from Fox River to James and Main.

Postcards should be sent to the property owners about the March 3rd meeting at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Bortel will start getting signatures of the thirteen property owners who have indicated bringing forward the application.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Bortel informed the new commissioners that a rehabilitation grant has been approved. There have been 2 grants awarded; one grant was awarded for the Martin property on Ottawa Street and a second grant was awarded for the Wright-Kelly property at the northeast corner of Bartlett and Amboy. Property owners can apply for a grant if the property is landmarked, or in a district and contributing. However there currently is no money for these grants.

Commissioner Olsen asked if the biggest part of the budget is for staff. Mr. Garrigan indicated it was. Chairman Bortel stated the bronze landmark plaques are over \$300 each.

Chairman Bortel asked about the work plan. Mr. Garrigan said it would be appropriate to set some goals for the work plan between now and the new fiscal year. May 1st starts the next fiscal year. Commissioner Derrick suggested the next meeting should be to discuss the work

plan. Chairman Bortel stated the current committee assignments are as follows: Commissioner Derrick is the chair of LDC and she is also on the Public Outreach committee. Commissioner Spangler is on LDDC but he will be leaving HPC so we have Commissioner Witt on LDDC. We would like to add Commissioner Feagans to the Public Outreach committee. Public Outreach used to meet quarterly one hour prior to the regular HPC meeting. Chairman Bortel stated we previously held workshops on window restoration and one for realtors that were handled by Public Outreach previously.

Discussion was held regarding how we have searched for new commissioners in the past.

Chairman Bortel stated over the past several years he was part of the Historical Society's Founders Day Event which takes place in May. This was a combination done by the Historical Society, MainStreet, the Chamber of Commerce, and VPA. Chairman Bortel mentioned that other communities have Mayor's Awards and wondered if HPC as a commission would be interested in doing something along these lines or do we want to inquire if the Chamber of Commerce would like the HPC to help. Commissioner Olsen asked if this was a ceremony or recognition. Chairman Bortel said he was thinking of this because of the corner properties at Rt. 59 and Rt. 30. Founders Day was started in March last year. Commissioner Olsen suggested honoring the people who have landmarked their properties.

Chairman Bortel stated there is a regional HPC group that was conceived by several other communities along with the former chair of HPC Michael Lambert. The members are from Montgomery, Aurora, Oswego, Kendall County and Plainfield who meet on a quarterly basis. They are currently planning a tour on May 14th to celebrate the beginning of the Civil War. There will be a bus tour on May 14th open to anyone who wishes to participate. More information will be forthcoming. There will also be a baseball game played in Oswego near the Prairie Point School in June of a semiprofessional team.

Commissioner Derrick mentioned as part of Public Outreach the Commission previously was looking into creating an MP3 download that could be accessed from the library and the Village website and a brochure. Work had begun on the brochure.

Chairman Bortel stated that tourism was mentioned at the February meeting. People did not think Plainfield was a tourist destination. Chairman Bortel felt with a Historic District downtown and if a gateway proposal was made where the old Go-Tane gas station was it could become a tourist destination. We just need a vision and foresight as we have as much going for Plainfield as Galena does.

Chairman Bortel mentioned that several members of the Historical Society are also members of the VPA. Commissioner Derrick thought someone mentioned there was something with the History teachers to tie something in with Preservation Month.

Chairman Bortel stated the Historical Society reopens February 22, 2011 for members and starting Saturday, February 12, 2011 and every Saturday thereafter until December from 1 to 4 p.m. for the public.

Chairman Bortel mentioned How To presentations and indicated they have new information on windows. Commissioner Olsen mentioned a workshop on masonry, hard surface, stucco, bricks, stone and concrete exterior surfaces. Commissioner Derrick mentioned also siding and the benefits, the tightness of the wood grain versus putting up new siding and/or replacement of brick.

Chairman Bortel mentioned sending out postcards for the informational meeting now scheduled for March 3, 2011.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DISCUSSION:

ADJOURN:

Commissioner Bright made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Derrick seconded the motion. Voice vote: All in favor. 0 - opposed. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Merrilee Trotz - Recording Secretary