

MINUTES
Historic Preservation Commission
August 7, 2008
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

I. Call to Order

Chair Alt called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. on August 7, 2008, at the Municipal Complex in Crystal Lake.

II. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following Commission members: Brice Alt, Diana Kenney, Michelle Rozovics, Sandra Price, Tom Nemcek and Bob Wyman. Also present was Eric Helm, Assistant to the City Manager and Mike and Diane Penkava from 127 College Street.

III. Public Comment

There was no one in the public who wished to speak.

IV. Approval of Minutes of the June 5, 2008 Regular Meeting and the July 9, 2008 Special Meeting

Member Price moved to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2008 regular meeting. Member Kenney seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed. Member Kenney moved to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2008 special meeting. Member Wyman seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Member Rozovics abstained. Motion passed.

V. Appeal Hearing for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Window Repair/Restoration at 127 College Street

Chair Alt asked the homeowners at 127 College Street to describe their amended application, which takes into consideration the recommendation of the Commission. Member Kenney asked the petitioners if they are proposing to restore all the windows and install triple track storm windows. Mr. and Mrs. Penkava stated yes. She was very encouraged to see that the cost to restore the windows was much less than the cost to replace the windows. She will vote to approve the amended application. Mr. Penkava stated that they were able to find a contractor who is qualified to restore the windows. He stated that he liked the storm windows because they fit flush. He also stated that the storm windows will reflect the style of the original storm windows, replacing the existing "non-historic" storm windows. Member Nemcek would not agree to the approval of aluminum storm windows. He felt the original storm windows were wood and the replacement storm windows should also be wood. Chair Alt read from the Commission's design guidelines. Member Nemcek stated that the guidelines advise the owner to replace a deteriorated storm window with matching materials. Chair Alt stated that the guidelines should be revised to reflect the opinion of the majority of commission members, that replacement storm windows may be powder coated aluminum; but, anodized aluminum storm windows are not allowed. Member Rozovics, Member Wyman and Member Price agreed with Member Kenney that the amended certificate of appropriateness is acceptable. Chair Alt felt that the amended certificate of appropriateness should be approved since the changes do not destroy the building's historic character.

Member Kenney moved to approve the amended Certificate of Appropriateness for window restoration at 127 College Street, including the approval of powder coated aluminum storm windows as presented by Mr. and Ms. Penkava in their letter and subsequent support material dated July 29, 2008. Member Price seconded the motion. On roll call, Member Alt, Kenney, Price, Wyman and Rozovics voted yes. Member Nemcek voted no. Motion passed.

VI. Review of Façade Grant Application for Window Replacement: 127 College Street

Member Kenney asked if the application funded only the window restoration, excluding the storm windows. Mr. Penkava confirmed this and stated that the application would cover the restoration of nine windows in 2008, with a total cost of \$1,866. He stated that in 2009 he would submit another application for the restoration of eight windows, with a total cost of \$1,658. Member Kenney moved to approve the façade grant application for phase I of the window restoration at 127 College Street in the amount of 50% of total project costs, up to a maximum disbursement of \$500. The grant funding would be given to the owner following proof that the project was completed per the application dated July 29, 2008. The Commission waived its requirement that the applicant receive three bids or proposals. Member Nemcek seconded the motion. On roll call, Member Alt, Nemcek, Kenney, Price, Wyman and Rozovics voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. and Mrs. Penkava stated that the original denial helped them research the restoration of the windows, which they did not originally consider. They felt that the window restoration will give them a better product and they thanked the Commission for assisting them in this decision. Member Kenney stated that this was also a learning experience for the Commission.

VII. Discussion of Trolley Tour

Chair Alt stated that he did a self guided tour from a kayak of properties on Crystal Lake. He found few historically significant properties; therefore, a heritage tour involving lake properties would not be feasible. Member Price asked about the 2009 Tour route. Member Kenney proposed focusing on properties north of the railroad tracks. Following the tour, participants could have the option of touring a Sears Home. Chair Alt asked if enough information existed to discuss Nunda. Member Kenney stated that little information exists. Member Kenney stated that the tour could go north to Mike Walkup's house and then proceed to Gates and Ellsworth Street. The Tour could also mention the absence of Josiah Walkup's house.

The Commission agreed that the tour should begin at 9:00 AM and end at 3:00 PM. Member Nemcek agreed to be the Tour Chair, with the first meetings occurring in October. Member Rozovics offered to write the Tour book.

VIII. Discussion of Certificate of Appropriateness Guidelines

City Staff Helm stated that he is still researching this topic and will have additional information at the September meeting.

IX. Request for Commission Funds - \$500 for Restoration of Union Soldier Statute

Member Kenney stated that the Union Cemetery soldier restoration efforts need an additional \$15,000 - \$20,000. The soldier restoration alone costs \$38,000. She stated that

the restoration efforts will be supported by several planned fundraising efforts. Member Nemcek moved to approved \$1,000 for the restoration of the Union Cemetery soldier statute. Member Rozovics seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.

X. Member Inquires and Reports

The Commission discussed the expenditure of the Commission's fund balance. Member Rozovics stated that the Commission could provide façade grants in excess of the \$500 yearly limit per property owner. Several Commission members disagreed. Member Nemcek and Member Kenney other worthy projects in the community could use support. They encouraged the Commission to identify these projects.

Member Price updated the Commission on the recent celebration at the Colonel Palmer House. Over three hundred people attended. Popular exhibits included the arts and crafts tent and the Civil War re-enactors. The Commission stated that the Civil War re-enactor exhibit should be expanded next year. Member Price thanked the Commission for its support.

The Commission discussed creating a "podcast". Various ideas were presented, including creating a podcast of the Trolley Tour. Member Nemcek stated that this might deter people from attending the tour. Several Commission members disagreed, stating that the Tour would still be popular. Member Kenney recommended that the Commission create podcasts lasting 10-20 minutes, which showcase a particular house or street.

Chair Alt introduced the Commission to "geocaching". Geocaches are cylindrical tubes with information placed inside. He stated that geocaches are hidden, and individuals with GPS units locate the geocaches per the quadrant. He stated that geocaches are hidden at the Dole Mansion and the Colonel Palmer House. The placement of the geocaches encourages people to visit historical sites.

Member Rozovics stated that she is speaking at a conference in January regarding local and federal procedures related to historic preservation. She requested that the Commission assist her financially in attending a three day NCSHPO conference regarding tax credits. Member Kenney made moved to approved \$445 of funding for Member Rozovics three day NCSHPO conference from September 24 – 26, 2008. Chair Alt seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Member Kenney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Member Wyman seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.