

MINUTES
Historic Preservation Commission
November 2, 2006
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

I. Call To Order

Chair Alt called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. on November 2, 2006, at the Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street.

II. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following Commission members: Chairperson Brice Alt, LeeAnn Atwood (arrived during UIC presentation), Sandy Price, Diana Kenney, Tom Nemcek, Michelle Rozovics and Bob Wyman. Also present was Sue Riegler, Martin Jaffe (UIC), Abe Lentner (UIC), Latika Bhide, City of Crystal Lake Planner and Eric Helm, Assistant to the City Manager.

III. Public Presentations

There was no one in the public who wished to make a presentation.

IV. Presentation of Neighborhood Housing Study Proposal (University of Illinois – Chicago Staff Presentation)

Mr. Martin Jaffe from the City Design Center at UIC presented information regarding the City Design Center at UIC. He stated that the UIC proposal for the City would focus on protecting the contextual significance and historical character of select City neighborhoods. The study is not a historical survey. Abe Lentner, also of UIC, stated that the City Design Center could provide the City technical assistance that would fit into the new Unified Development Code (UDC). He outlined that the UIC proposal will assist the City in creating design regulations for historic neighborhoods. The Commission questioned why the north shore of Crystal Lake was chosen as a study area. Planner Bhide stated that the proposal is only a starting point, and she hoped that the Commission could assist in focusing the study. The Commission asked City staff to better define the neighborhoods and give the Commission some idea of how many homes are in each study area. The Commission also asked how this study serves the HPC's interests. Mr. Jaffe responded that the UIC guidelines would help create a sense of "historical place" and serve to ensure that all new structures or modifications to structure fit into the context of the historic neighborhood. City Staff Helm agreed to contact the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency for details regarding grant funding.

Following the presentation, the Commission continued to discuss the UIC proposal. Member Rozovics stated that the photographs obtained as a result of the study could be useful to the Commission. Member Nemcek does not want the Commission to over commit itself to a new project. He expressed concerns over the scope of the project. City Staff Helm stated that it might be useful to ask Michelle Rentzsch, City Director of Planning and Economic Development, to attend a special meeting and answer the Commission's questions. Member Kenney asked what use the information obtained through the UIC study would have for the Commission. The Commission agreed to meet on Thursday, November 16, 2006 at 7:30 to discuss the UIC study with the City of Crystal Lake's Planning and Economic Development staff.

V. Approval of Minutes of the October 5, 2006 Regular Meeting

Member Kenney moved to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2006 meeting, as presented at the meeting. Member Wyman seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.

VI. Discussion of 2007 Heritage Tour

Member Nemcek volunteered to coordinate the 2007 Heritage Tour. Member Kenney felt that the Tour needed one coordinator, instead of organizing the Tour “by committee”, which has been the past practice. Member Kenney and Nemcek expressed concern that some details were missed in past Tour planning. Chair Alt and Member Atwood stated that not enough homes are available on Ringling Road to facilitate the 2007 Tour. The Commission agreed to pursue the Dole Avenue and Hastings Avenue neighborhood. Member Nemcek asked Commission members to visit the neighborhood and evaluate homes. Member Rozovics offered her home on the Tour, if not enough were available.

VII. Discussion of Design Guidelines for Certificate of Appropriateness

Member Nemcek stated that he is continually accepting revisions to the guidelines and will incorporate all changes.

VIII. Member Inquiries and Reports

Member Wyman stated that he does not want a separate landmark plaque on his garage. Instead, he wants the money given to the Union Cemetery statue restoration efforts. Member Nemcek stated that the Commission should limit its expenses, so that more can be given as façade grants. He stated that the Commission might need to revise its façade grant guidelines to allow a maximum of \$300 per project or \$500 per property every other year. Member Nemcek also presented the draft language for the 135 College Street landmarked property. The Commission agreed that both the house and the garage should have a plaque.

Member Price stated that the next display at the City Hall would focus on the downtown train station.

The Commission agreed that all future meetings would begin at 7:30 PM.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Member Nemcek moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. Member Price seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.