

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

I. Call To Order

Chair Alt called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. on March 2, 2006, at the Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street.

II. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following Commission members: Chair Brice Alt, Tom Nemcek, Sandy Price, Sue Riegler and Bob Wyman. Also present was Eric Helm, Assistant to the City Manager.

III. Public Presentations

There was no public presentation.

IV. Approval of Minutes of the February 2, 2006 Regular Meeting

Member Price moved to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2006 regular meeting. Member Wyman seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.

V. Discussion of the Heritage Tour

Member Nemcek updated the Commission on Member Wyman's and his research of the Tour homes at the McHenry County building. He stated that their research went smoothly. Member Nemcek answered questions from the Commission regarding the homes. He found times when the property taxes increase significantly for the homes on the tour, signifying site or home improvement. Member Price presented her research into the life of Mr. Ritt and his involvement in the College Street and University Street neighborhood. Chair Alt stated that he contacted a previous owner of his house. Member Price questioned Chair Alt regarding the death indexes. Chair Alt stated that there are two indexes, the Social Security Death Index and the McHenry County Death Index. He stated that Member Kenney has additional information regarding these indexes.

Member Nemcek stated that the Commission should focus on the tour booklet articles. Member Riegler asked which articles would appear in the booklet. Member Price said the following were possible articles: Pump House, Terra Cotta Company, Immanuel Lutheran, street names, garages (Member Kenney has information regarding this item), and houses that have been moved. Member Nemcek noted that the ticket cost for the tour would stay the same this year, but may increase next year.

Member Riegler agreed to make some phone calls regarding the Immanuel Lutheran Church story for the tour booklet. She will also contact Member Kenney. Member Price will do additional research regarding the Ritt family. She stated that many people worked for Terra Cotta who lived on the street, and this may be an interesting topic for the tour booklet. The Commission also informed Member Wyman that he could look at obituaries to discover additional information regarding those who lived in his house.

Member Price questioned the Commission on how to locate death certificates. Member Nemcek stated the county the person died in possesses the individual's death certification. He said that it can be difficult to find the exact target of the search.

VI. Discussion of Design Guidelines for Certificate of Appropriateness - Member Wyman

Member Wyman presented the sections concerning Roofs and Skylights, Satellite Dishes, Antennas, and Solar Panels, Chimneys and Gutters and Downspouts. Chair Alt mentioned that the word "existing" should be replaced by the word "original". Member Nemcek stated that requiring homeowners to install expensive items (i.e. cedar roofs or copper gutters/downspouts) might be financially unreasonable for the homeowner. He stated that the Commission should consider the financial hardship and reasonableness of requiring certain original materials. Every reference to color selection was deleted. Member Nemcek stated that "foundations" should be added to the guidelines. Member Wyman noted several other changes that he would make to the document, and then he would send the document to Member Nemcek. Member Riegler will present her findings at the next meeting and perform research on "Foundations".

VII. Member Inquiries and Reports

Member Nemcek gave an update on the restoration of the Dole Mansion. Member Wyman stated that he is continuing his research into the *Northwest Herald* picture collection.

VIII. Chair's Report

Chair Alt presented two items from Member Kenney. First, he read the awarded matching grants given by the State of Illinois to various Historical Preservation Commissions. Most grants focused on information brochures and surveys. Second, he distributed information regarding terra cotta restoration. Chair Alt also announced a conference on the relationship between building codes and historic restoration scheduled for April 2006.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Member Riegler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Member Nemcek seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.