

MINUTES
Historic Preservation Commission
August 1, 2019
City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1) Call to Order

L. Solak, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2) Roll Call/Attendance

The following Commission members were present: Hamilton Hale, Nancy Haskins, Diana Kenney, Lisa Solak, Bob Wyman, and Jim Wyman. Staff member Katie Cowlin was present. Ron Scherf was absent.

3) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4) Approval of Minutes of the June 6, 2019 Regular Meeting

D. Kenney made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2019 regular meeting. J. Wyman seconded the motion. On voice vote all members voted aye. Motion passed.

5) 127 College Street – Certificate of Appropriateness

The petitioner was not present. L. Solak stated they could discuss the item without the petitioner being present. B. Wyman stated he is familiar with the project, Mr. Liparoto is repairing the south and north sides of the house. The work includes painting, replacing some siding and completing work to the window sills. D. Kenney thought the request was a good project, but questioned if the project requires a certificate of appropriateness. The project sounds like normal maintenance which does not require review and approval. J. Wyman made a motion to table the Certificate of Appropriateness request until the petitioner can be present. It appears the petitioner has completed some of the work already and he should be present to explain the scope of work. H. Hale seconded the motion. On voice vote all members voted aye. Motion passed. The Committee requested staff verify the requirements for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

6) 2019 Trolley Tour

J. Wyman requested a financial report for the 2019 Trolley Tour. K. Cowlin stated one was not available at this time, but staff can provide a summary at the next meeting. D. Kenney stated there were only about nine tickets that were not sold, it was another successful trolley tour. D. Kenney stated she received a lot of positive feedback, L. Solak echoed D. Kenney's summary. H. Hale said it was nice having the bathrooms at City Hall available, his most frequent question was if there were restrooms. B. Wyman said he would like to review the ticket prices, the trolley could be more expensive next year. D. Kenney stated that the trolley tour generates a good amount of money and if the trolley rental fee increases, most likely the ticket prices will not need to be increased. The goal of the event is to provide education on the history and historic value of our community. L. Solak agreed that the current ticket price is perfect, we do not want to discourage attendance. D. Kenney said they can review prices once the quotes for the trolley is completed.

B. Wyman asked what the theme should be for next year. L. Solak asked if there were any significant anniversaries. H. Hale suggested a Woodstock Street, Oak and Francis Street route. B. Wyman stated that was recently done. He suggested a Lakewood tour. D. Kenney said that was

also recently done. L. Solak suggested to the Committee to start to look and think of ideas. J. Wyman thought it would be fun to highlight old schools, except they are too far apart. H. Hale stated that it will be the anniversary of the Palm Sunday Tornado and they could go around the path of the tornado. D. Kenney stated that there could be relatives still in the area and it may be a little morbid for a tour topic. Also, the historically significant structures would have been lost to the tornado if they went along the path. N Haskins added that she remembers the tornado and she was on a trip to New York, when she returned it was overwhelming to see the destruction. D. Kenney suggested a “moved and removed” theme, that the moved or removed structures that have been on past tours were always a hit. There are many choices. B. Wyman agreed that could be a good theme. Members H. Hale and J. Wyman remembered many structures being moved and they liked the idea. D. Kenney said they would need to look for clusters of moved and removed structures to make a good trolley tour route – S. Williams Street, Walkup’s Addition and Paddock’s Addition would be good areas to research.

7) Member Inquiries and Reports

J. Wyman asked staff if there have been any demolition permits recently. K. Cowlin stated there have not.

B. Wyman and N. Haskins inquired about the house at Ellsworth and Route 176 – it is in poor condition and has great history. D. Kenney stated that the owner had contacted her a few years ago about the house and any grant possibilities. The homeowner is low on funds. The homeowner is not interested in landmark status and while the house has great history, it may be in such poor condition that it would not have any equity. J. Wyman asked about the City’s policy on property maintenance. K. Cowlin reviewed the property maintenance process, including warnings, violation notices and adjudication. H. Hale stated that a reverse mortgage could help the homeowner have access to funds. D. Kenney stated she was not sure the house had enough equity to qualify for a reverse mortgage. L. Solak concluded the conversation and summarized that the home does not have landmark status and this Committee could not help the homeowner at this time.

8) Adjournment

There being no further business J. Wyman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. D. Kenney seconded the motion. On voice vote, all members voted aye.