

MINUTES
Historic Preservation Commission
September 7, 2023
City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1) Call to Order

L. Solak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2) Roll Call/Attendance

The following Commission members were present, Ana Freund, Judi Halter, Nancy Haskins, Diana Kenney, Bob Kosin, Brittany Niequist, Lisa Solak, and, Bob Wyman. City Planner, Elizabeth Maxwell, was present for staff.

3) Public Comment

None.

4) Approval of Minutes of the July 6, 2023 Regular Meeting

D. Kenney noted that the Crystal Lake Historical Society was requesting the grant so there is a correction to item six. She made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. J. Halter seconded the motion. On voice vote all voted aye. Motion passed.

5) Grant Disbursement for Crystal Lake Cemetery

D. Kenney presented the request on behalf of the Historical Society. She showed the photos of the work that was completed. She noted this work received a Certificate of Appropriateness and the Commission reserved the grant for this request. All the members were impressed with the work that was done to fix the stones. They also talked about how good the stones looked that were cleaned.

B. Niequist made a motion to approve the grant disbursement. B. Kosin seconded the motion. On voice vote members L. Solak, A. Freund, J. Halter, B. Wyman, N. Haskins, B. Niequist, B. Kosin voted aye. D. Kenney abstained. Motion passed.

D. Kenney noted that donors through the Save Our Stones program received a memo showing the great progress in the repair and cleaning of the stones. This helped generate more funds donated. The survey also shows about six or eight obelisks down and one is a veteran stone so this will be the next phase of the project.

6) Recap of Trolley Tour 2023

D. Kenney said they almost completely sold out this year. They had bad weather so that hurt day of sales. B. Niequist said everyone enjoyed the theme and was eager to learn about Sears Homes. The book was well laid out, looked great, and had great history.

L. Solak said Kurt Pierson really enjoyed the tour. B. Niequist said that lots of people are still talking about the tour.

B. Wyman was excited that he got over his fear of speaking. D. Kenney said it was great to see all the different personalities coming out and each tour group was different and that is good.

A. Freund said a few people had a hard time seeing out of the sides of the trolley with the roll down vinyl windows down and on the one trolley with the accessible ramp equipment. J. Halter said her friend thought the ticket prices were ok. No one complained on the tour about the costs and they did almost sell out. B. Wyman said the book is a great value.

B. Niequist said they are missing a younger demographic when they are not selling them online. B. Wyman said once the Knights of Columbus allowed credit card their sales went up. D. Kenney agreed that credit card sales were good. Are they looking for one location that can take both types of payment? A. Freund suggested buying their own software or they can have the half past the hour start time tours online and the hour start time tours in person. They asked how this would be logged into the HPC revenue account in the general fund. Also, they should create a work plan on various scenarios like if one tour sells out, who is paying processing fees, etc.

They began discussing various themes and houses that could be featured. A lot of people liked the Moved and Removed Tour. J. Halter mentioned there are more houses that could be featured on that tour. Everyone should look at the past Moved and Removed Tour and find new houses and some possible routes. Dole Avenue will be under construction so they should avoid that street.

7) Member Inquiries and Reports

D. Kenney noted that Kurt Pierson had volunteered to index all the trolley tour books by Name and Structure. This will help in searching in the future. She is not sure of the final format for searching and access. B. Kosin asked if all the historical articles that D. Kenney writes could also be indexed and put online. D. Kenney said she owns the rights to the articles and would not want them online for anyone to take or use without permission. She has given the City limited rights to publish them in the newsletter.

B. Kosin said he and B. Wyman wanted to do a presentation to the Commission members about the history of McCormick Memorial Park. D. Kenney said she will not be at the next meeting. Typically presentations come in with the historical background information and the landmark application so the Commission can review all the items at one time.

Staff mentioned that the Sustainability Committee is looking to put a Monarch Butterfly display in the cabinet. The Commission said that display case was built just for their displays. If they allow other groups to start using it they feel like they will lose it. There is an electric sign smaller cabinet they could use.

B. Niequist said she has had a hard time getting repair work done at her property. If she finds someone that could do the work it is either that weekend or in six months. She cannot get a Certificate of Appropriateness approved that quickly. It was suggested that she put together a

repair package with general repair standards for the Commission to review and vote on. Then she can get a contractor that would follow the general process.

8) Adjournment

There being no further business, B. Kosin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Halter seconded the motion. On voice vote, all members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.