

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

APPROVED

DATE: April 5, 2000

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Urbana City Building
400 Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61801

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alice Novak, Art Zangerl,
Paul Ecklor, Liz Cardman
Trent Shepard, Richard Cahill

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Lachlan Blair

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Tyler, AICP/ASLA, Asst. City Planner
Mary Jo Montgomery, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alice Novak at 7:05 p.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was declared present.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Shepard suggested there be a “members excused” and a “members absent” category to qualify absences from the meeting. After discussion, the minutes from the February 2, 2000 meeting were

approved with the permanent addition of “members excused” category. Mr. Zangerl moved. Mr. Ecklor seconded. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

5. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

6. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

7. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Historic Preservation Ordinance Text Revisions

The first item to be discussed was the Historic Preservation Ordinance Text Revisions. Chairperson Novak asked Ms. Tyler to present a staff report. Ms. Tyler stated that most of the proposed amendments are procedural and result from legal review and staff review. There are very few substantive changes. Ms. Tyler stated the deadline for staff to have a master strike out document for commission’s review is May 1st, 2000. Ms. Tyler also stated that the commissioner’s input was welcomed and at the May meeting, staff and commissioners will do a more formal review of the suggested amendments. Those changes would then go to the Plan Commission. This process will probably take until June. Ms. Cardman asked if there was something that triggered the changes. Ms. Tyler stated that staff saw a need for clarification for procedures as they prepared the ordinances for the five landmarks.

Historic Plaque Design

The second item discussed by the commission was Historic Plaque Design. Ms. Tyler stated that Rob Kowalski, Senior Planner researched different plaque designs to present to the commission for review

and selection. Ms. Cardman asked why there was not going to be a plaque design contest. Ms. Novak stated that time was of the essence since Preservation Week is the first part of May and it is important to recognize the recently approved landmarks. Ms. Tyler stated that the benefits from using nationwide vendors included reasonable cost and time of delivery.

Ms. Novak asked Mr. Cahill for his choice for the plaque design based on the concepts presented by staff. Mr. Cahill chose design Option B. He stated that he preferred B because of the shape, but felt it did not need the logo. Ms. Cardman also chose Option B. She reiterated that the plaque did not need the logo. She stated that Option A was her next choice, but wanted the logo removed from it. Mr. Ecklor chose Option A. He stated that he like the idea of having the city logo on the plaque. Mr. Zangerl stated he liked the shape of Option A. He would like to see the wording closer together. He stated that he felt Option A needed a flat border around the plaque with screw holes. Ms. Novak stated that Mr. Zangerl was referring to the Erie Landmark attachment, the example of the Montgomery House with the ½” border. He also stated that the logo was optional. Mr. Shepard stated that he liked the shape of Option A the best. He agreed with Mr. Zangerl about the border. He felt there should be less information on the plaque, but larger lettering. As for the logo, Mr. Shepard stated that he preferred not to have it on the plaque. He felt the name of the house and the date it was constructed should be in large print. Ms. Novak stated that consensus seemed that everyone was in favor of not having the logo on the plaque. She proposed the Joliet Historic Landmark example on the Smith Cornell handout. There was some discussion about language to be used on the plaque. The commissioners thought that the date was important to have on the plaques. Ms. Novak summed up the commission’s request by stating that Option A was the most favorable plaque, but that the logo should be dropped, and the wording should be more like Option B. Ms. Tyler stated that she believed that the City of Champaign plaques were square or rectangular shaped. Ms. Novak stated that she thought the lettering of the landmark name should be the largest with the date smaller. As for the option of bronze of aluminum, the general consensus was for the plaque to be made out of bronze.

Urbana-Champaign Joint HPC Meeting

The final item on the agenda was the Champaign Urbana Joint Historic Preservation Commissions meeting scheduled for May 3rd. Ms. Tyler stated that this may be the first of possibly annual joint meetings with the City of Champaign’s Historic Preservation Commission. Staff recommends that this be a televised regular meeting with a joint agenda. The first order of business will be an introduction followed by ½ hour presentations from each city to give an overview of the commissions goals to meet specific projects. Ms Tyler and staff are planning a PowerPoint presentation. She asked if any of the commissioners would like to volunteer to help with the presentation. Mr. Zangerl volunteered to do a presentation for Ricker House and the Cinema. Ms. Novak stated that she would present the Gothic Revival, Lindley and Tiernan’s landmark. Mr. Cahill thought the Reconnaissance Survey should be mentioned. Ms. Novak asked if the map for the suggested survey area could be added to the

PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Ecklor asked if the brochure had been completed. Ms. Tyler stated she would check with Mr. Kowalski on the status of the brochure.

9. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

10. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Tyler stated that the City Council unanimously accepted the 5 Landmark nominations at the February meeting. Ms. Tyler stated that Mr. Kowalski will be attending a Nomination Preparation workshop in May. Ms. Novak stated that on March 10th, the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council met and approved National Registry nominations for the Nathan Ricker House and Buena Vista Court.

11. STUDY SESSION

There was none.

12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April D. Getchius, Secretary
Urbana Historic Preservation Commission