

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

APPROVED

DATE: December 7, 2005

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Chambers, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rich Cahill, Scott Dossett, Alice Novak, Bill Rose, Mary Stuart, Trent Shepard, Art Zangerl

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Bicksler, Planning Division Intern; Robert Myers, Planning Division Manager; Tony Weck, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: G. D. Brighton, Mike Lehman

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

Urbana Historic Preservation Commission Chair, Alice Novak, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Two minor corrections to the minutes of the September 7, 2005 meeting were requested. Otherwise, the minutes were unanimously accepted as presented.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

6. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Stucco Workshop Update

Planning Division Intern, Rebecca Bicksler, updated the Commission on the planning of the upcoming Stucco Workshop.

202 South Broadway Avenue (IMC Building/Post Office): Discussion with Independent Media Center representatives concerning the historic landmark designation process and review standards.

Mike Lehman, a representative of the Independent Media Center appeared before the Commission to present progress on the interior renovations taking place at the above referenced building and to answer questions posed by members of the Commission. A major topic of discussion was the windows currently installed in the building. An overlying concern was the energy efficiency of the current windows in the main part of the building and how to either make the current windows more energy efficient or install new windows that are at the same time energy efficient and appropriate to the aesthetic of the building. Suggestions were offered by members of the Commission as well as by Staff. Mr. Lehman note that the status of funding for the Independent Media Center (I.M.C.) was such that the group was very concerned about the cost of improvements to the structure vis-à-vis the requirements of Historic Preservation ordinances and preservation conventions. At the same time, the current windows at the I.M.C. were costing a tremendous amount of money in heating bills. Mr. Rose expressed appreciation for the I.M.C.'s decision to use this building and for their investment in downtown Urbana. He gave the opinion that there were ways to improve the window situation in a win-win framework (i.e., maintain aesthetic integrity and still have energy efficiency). Mr. Dossett seconded Mr. Rose's appreciation for the I.M.C. investment and offered to assist if needed as the application process for historic status goes forward. Mr. Dossett hoped the required and desired changes could be done in a way to serve both the I.M.C. and preservation interests.

Mr. Lehman noted a second topic of concern, that being the desire of the I.M.C. to add approximately 40 feet to the height of their tower, which has already required a variance. Mr. Dossett and Mr. Shepard asked for and received clarification about the total height and placement of the extended tower and its impact on the façade view of the building, which were believed negligible.

Of other concern is the fact that the basement of the building is not currently handicap accessible. The idea was raised of a ramp however no permanent solution to this problem was presented.

8. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Five Year Historic Preservation Report

Ms. Bicksler updated the Commission on the draft she had prepared of the Five Year Historic Preservation Report. It was explained briefly to the Commission what information the Report contains, which includes the number and location of applications for historic district landmark designation, the number and location of historic districts approved since the adoption of Urbana's Historic Preservation Ordinance, the number and location of historic landmarks designated since the adoption of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, the number of protests filed with the City Clerk on any designation, an update to the City Council on survey or educational work conducted by the Historic Preservation Commission, and any other information deemed necessary by the City Council or the Historic Preservation Commission.

Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places – Lincoln Square Village

Mr. Myers briefed the Commission on ongoing nominations, stating that the only one existing at the time of this meeting was that of Lincoln Square Village.

Report on Certificates of Appropriateness issued by City Staff

Mr. Myers reported that two Certificates of Appropriateness had been issued by City Staff, both of which were for 108 N. Webber St. The first application was submitted by Carolyn Baxley to repair siding on the house. The second application was for a fence in the rear yard.

10. MONITORING OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

There was nothing to report.

11. STAFF REPORT

There was none.

12. STUDY SESSION

There was none.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cahill moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Shepard seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Novak at 8:08 p.m.

Submitted,

Robert Myers, Planning Division Manager