

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**APPROVED**

**DATE:** August 16, 2011

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

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

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alice Novak, David Seyler, Trent Shepard, Kim Smith, Mary Stuart

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Scott Dossett, Joan Stolz

**STAFF PRESENT:** Robert Myers, Planning Division Manager; Rebecca Bird, Planner I; Sukiya J. Robinson, Recording Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Marie Bohl, Gina Pagliuso, Paul Young

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

Urbana Historic Preservation Commission Chair, Alice Novak, called the meeting to order at 7:01 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**

The minutes of the July 6, 2011 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Novak questioned the wording of condition # 2 of the motion listed on page 4 in the minutes. She wondered if a specific deck height should be provided or should it be kept as written? The Commission determined it should be left as is. Ms. Novak also commented on lack of wording regarding the requirement of the absence of a guardrail. Staff suggested adding the words “or installed” to the end of condition 2 as more accurately reflecting the motion. Ms. Smith moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Shepard seconded the motion. The amended July 6th minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Bird reported on a letter received supporting the COA application which she distributed to the Commission for review.

**5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Novak stated that if anyone in the audience wished to speak on any matter other than the COA application, it would be appropriate to do so at that time.

Gina Pagliuso, 806 S. Vine St., Urbana, addressed the Commission. She had a question for the Commission regarding the inclusion of local landmarks on the “100 Most Significant Structures List.” The Commission provided an answer to her question.

Ms. Novak asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak. There were none.

**6. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

**8. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Case No. HP-2011-COA-04: 701 S Busey Avenue. A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to create a new doorway where a window now exists at the rear of the house, Paul Young, applicant**

Ms. Novak opened the public hearing regarding this case and asked for the City staff report.

Ms. Bird presented the staff report to the Commission and outlining staff’s findings regarding this case. Based on the findings provided, and without the benefit of considering additional evidence that could be presented at the public hearing, City staff recommended that the Historic Preservation Commission approve a Certificate of Appropriateness to create a new doorway where a window now exists at the rear of the house with the following conditions:

1. The work shall be done in general conformance to that described in the attached application.
2. The sliding glass door closely resembles the door in the photo in the attached application.

Commission questions to the City staff were addressed.

Ms. Novak asked if the applicant, Paul Young, wished to speak. He did not.

Ms. Novak asked if there were any proponents or opponents of the case who wished to speak. There were none.

Ms. Novak then opened up discussion from the Commission. The Commission briefly discussed the merits of the case.

Following discussion, Mr. Seyler made a motion that the Commission approve the requested Certificate of Appropriateness in Case No. HP-2011-COA-04 based on staff findings. Ms. Smith seconded the motion.

With no further discussion of the case Ms. Novak asked for a roll call vote. Roll was taken and the votes were as follows:

Novak- Yes  
Seyler- Yes  
Shepard- Yes  
Smith- Yes  
Stuart- Yes

With all Commissioners present in favor the motion carried unanimously and the Certificate of Appropriateness was granted.

With no further discussion, Ms. Novak closed the public hearing for Case No. HP-2011-COA-04.

#### **9. NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

#### **10. MONITORING OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

There were none.

#### **11. STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Myers reported on the following:

- **Landmarks Illinois** has composed a list of the 40 Most Important Preservation Success Stories in the last 40 years, and two of the properties are located in Champaign-Urbana. One was the Champaign County Courthouse tower reconstruction in Urbana and the other was the Orpheum Theatre in Champaign.
- **National Alliance of Preservation Commissions** is holding a training session in the next couple months and scholarships will be available for anyone in local communities who would like to attend.

#### **12. STUDY SESSION**

##### **Certified Local Government Grant: Urbana's 100 Most Significant Buildings**

Ms. Novak introduced this agenda item and asked for City staff presentation.

Ms. Bird provided an update on the project and explained that 79 of the properties that the super-majority voted yes on, were placed on the “yes” list and the remaining 21 were recommendations by City staff to bring the total to 100. She stated that Staff did not have time to analyze the 79 as far as architectural styles, time periods, or neighborhoods that were under or over represented so the Commission could help in that aspect. Ms. Bird explained how the lists of properties presented that night were arranged. Ms. Bird then turned it over to the Commission.

Ms. Novak stated that three main issues should be dealt with up front. They were as follows:

1. Should the list included properties that have already been designated (National Register of Historic Places and/or local historic landmarks)?
2. How should buildings on the University of Illinois campus be treated?
3. How should sorority and fraternity houses be dealt with?

Following discussion, the Commission concluded that some designated properties should be considered, University buildings would be excluded unless there was some compelling reason to put them on the list, and that fraternity and sorority houses should be placed on the list as a group. The Commission then went through the list of 100 and voted “yes” or “no” on whether or not the property would remain on the list. Commissioners asked that a few additional properties be added to the list in light of resolving the three issues noted above.

At the conclusion of voting, Ms. Bird stated that she would provide Commission members with a DVD including of all of the photos and an Excel file with everything sorted by address a couple weeks before the meeting. She requested that the Commission spend time going through all the properties to figure out which 100 should make the final list.

### **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Smith commented on an email received from Allison Warren, an Architecture program faculty member at U of I, regarding a possible Urbana modernism home tour this fall. She wanted to know if the Commission was interested in participating. Ms. Bird stated that they could definitely help with promotion and media releases. Ms. Smith stated that she would have Ms. Warren contact Ms. Bird.

### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business Ms. Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Shepard seconded the motion. With all Commission members in favor, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Submitted,

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Robert Myers, AICP, Planning Manager