Evansville Historic Preservation Commission

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 5:30 P.M.**

**Evansville City Hall**

**Present:** Betsy Ahner, Steve Christens, Steve Culbertson, John Decker, Matt Koser Ald. Gene Lewis, and Dan Stephans.

**Absent:**  None

**Also Present:**  Community Development Director Jason Sergeant, citizens Mike Scarmon, Scott Vale, Rachel Guzman, Michelle Frey, Cory Bavery, Jacinda Cunniff, Greg Helgesen, Roger Berg, Gregory Ardisson, Keith Hennig, and Jennifer Ehle.

**Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chair Culbertson.

**Approval of minutes.** Koser moved to waive reading and to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2016 minutes as submitted. Lewis seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Civility reminder.**  Announced by the Chair.

**Citizen appearances.** None.

**Applications.**

1. 20 Garfield Avenue, AHI 84943. Mike Scarmon appeared in support of an application to replace roofing materials. Koser moved to approve the application as submitted. Stephans seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
2. 27 Garfield Avenue, AHI 85062. Scott Vale and Rachel Guzman appeared in support of an application to demolish a garage and replace it with a new 2-car garage having dimensions and architectural detailing in harmony with neighboring structures and in harmony with planned improvements to the exterior of the residence on the site. The gable end of the main façade will have shake shingle detailing. The length of the new garage will permit it to store a boat and truck, as well as the owners’ automobiles. A paved driveway also will be constructed. Stephans moved to approve the application, as revised. Ahner seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote, with Decker noting that the existing garage does not contribute to the historical significance of the district and is therefore not a “historic building” for which a demolition permit would be required. Ahner moved to recommend to the Plan Commission the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for the project, in that the proposal meets the design criteria under the Historic Conservation Overlay district zoning standards. Stephans seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
3. 123 S. First Street, AHI 84983. Michelle Frey appeared in support of an application to restore the front porch on the residence to a prior, historical appearance as documented by photography. Ahner moved to approve the application, as submitted. Lewis seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
4. 134 W. Church Street, AHI 85043. Cory Bavery and Jacinda Cunniff appeared in support of an application to construct wooden fences along the east and west lot lines to the rear of the residence, with the option to reconstruct the existing wooden fence along the north lot line. Sergeant noted the applicable setback requirements and that the City would not be able to resolve disagreements over lot line locations. In the event of a disagreement, the respective owners might be required to obtain a survey. Koser moved to approve the application, as submitted. Lewis seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
5. 268 W. Liberty Street, AHI 85113. Greg Helgesen and Roger Berg appeared in support of an application to construct a detached, divided two-unit garage on the north side of the residence, with the principal façade facing Third Street. A hip roof design similar to that of the residence will be used. The garage will permit additional indoor storage of personal property as well as vehicle storage. Plan view and elevation drawings were presented along with a site plan. Sergeant recommended that wider trim be provided at the vehicle doors to better harmonize with the residence, but otherwise stated that the design meets the zoning code criteria. Ahner moved to approve the application with the revision suggested by staff. Stephans seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Decker moved to recommend to the Plan Commission the issuance of an amended Conditional Use Permit, in that the proposal, as revised, meets the design criteria under the Historic Conservation Overlay district zoning standards. Culbertson seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
6. 5 Maple Street/19-21 E. Main Street, Historic Grange Store Building, AHI 46943. Gregory Ardisson appeared in support of a proposal to install a new entrance door and sidelight at the ground floor corner of the building, restore the ground floor windows on the east side of the building to the original dimensions, restore a missing masonry window sill, add an awning above the first floor windows on the east side, and install exhaust fan duct work to the north of the second-floor bay window. Seasonal outdoor tables and seating will be provided on the sidewalk to the east of the building. A balcony at the second floor level, depicted in earlier drawings, will not be constructed. Koser moved to approve the application, as submitted. Decker seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Community Development Director report.** Deferred.

**Old business.**

1. **Approval of Historic Preservation application, demolition, and decision forms.** Deferred.

**New business.**

1. **Discussion of Leonard-Leota Park projects.**
2. **Time Capsule**. Keith Hennig, representing Troop 514, appeared for consultation respecting a proposal to install a pyramid-shaped aluminum “time capsule” as a replacement for the spherical finial atop the flagpole donated to the City by the Woman’s Relief Corps in 1938. Decker noted that the flagpole had been reconditioned by the City in 2013 for its formal rededication that year. Hennig also proposed that a commemorative plaque be attached to a boulder to be brought to the site, or to the exterior of the Scout House, to call attention to the time capsule. Commission members expressed concern that the time capsule, whether mounted atop the flagpole or on the roof of the Scout House, and the furnishing of the proposed plaque, likely would have an adverse effect on the historical character of the Park. As an alternative, the Commission suggested the furnishing of a second flagpole for mounting of the time capsule, the furnishing of a replacement spherical finial for the Woman’s Relief Corps flagpole, and the engraving of any commemorative information on the surface of the time capsule itself. Sergeant requested that proponents supply a site plan, with the expectation that the proposal will need to be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment.
3. **Scout House.** Deferred.
4. **Grove Society discussion.** Jennifer Ehle appeared on behalf of Evansville Grove Society, Inc. for the following consultations.
5. Historic Evansville Coloring Book. Additional artwork is being furnished by Richard Krake and high school art students. The book will be distributed free of charge to third grade and History Hunters students by Union Bank &Trust Co. UB&T is also underwriting the cost of the new edition for the city’s sesquicentennial.
6. Antes Cabin. The cabin remains in City ownership and is under the City’s insurance policy. The Grove Society would like to replace the worn-out carpeting and install furniture so that the cabin can be interpreted as a tourist cabin, as originally purposed. Commission members cautioned that the interior walls and framing materials should not be painted, and that the floor should be returned to its original, wood plank appearance. Sergeant asked the Grove Society to present the City with a written proposal for any future interior work.
7. A “Preserving Memories” program will be held at the library on April 11 to describe digitization of recordings, photos and films, and proper storage techniques for archival material.
8. Ehle suggested a program on maintaining antiques by professional conservator Craig Deller. He would charge a fee of $100, and the Grove Society is seeking co-sponsors.
9. Dan Stephans will be presenting a program at the Grove Society Museum on the history of Leonard-Leota Park as a tourist camping and recreation venue, and about Highway 14 as part of the “New National Park Highway” from Chicago to the western National Parks. The program will be held on August 28, and motorcycle and antique car enthusiasts will be invited in particular.
10. **Discussion on education and outreach strategies.** Deferred.
11. **WAHPC annual dues.** Ahner moved to approve payment of annual dues of $40 for membership in Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions, Inc. for 2016. Christens seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Correspondence, comments, and concerns.** None presented.

**Adjournment.**

Christens moved to adjourn. Koser seconded. Approved by voice vote at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Decker

Secretary

The minutes of the Evansville Historic Preservation Commission are not official until approved by the Commission.