

Evansville Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes

Wednesday May 17, 2006, 7:00 P.M.

3rd Floor, City Hall



Present: Steve Christens, Dennis Wessels, Steve Culbertson, John Decker, Louise Keely, and Betsy Ahner

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by vice - chair Steve Christens.

Minutes: *Motion by Steve Culbertson to waive the reading of the April 19, 2006 minutes and approve them as written. Second by Dennis Wessels. Motion carried.* There were no additions or corrections to the minutes so they stand approved as written.

Election of Officers:

Chair: no commission members expressed an interest in this position. *Motion by Wessels to table this election until the next meeting. Second by Culbertson. Motion carried.*

Vice- Chair: *motion by Wessels to elect Steve Christens as chair of the HPC. Second by Steve Culbertson. Motion carried.*

Secretary: *motion by Wessels to elect Betsy Ahner as secretary of the HPC. Second by Decker. Motion carried.*

Applications:

327 W. Liberty Ave. – Jeff and Sue Farnsworth were present to explain the work that was being done and planned for the home, which belonged to the Harper family for over 100 years. They will replace all electrical, heating, and plumbing. They have removed the siding and the wood under it is in better condition than expected and can be repaired and painted. The original porch is fairly solid and can be saved. No changes are planned to the windows other than repair and replacement as necessary with similar wood windows. The dormer is not original but will not be removed. An enclosed back porch will be insulated and converted to a dining room. After further questions and discussion, *motion by Wessels to approve the application for the project. Second by Decker. Motion carried.*

120 Main Street – *Motion by Wessels to approve the project. Second by Decker.* Homeowner Steve Carlson was present to explain the proposed project. He presented detailed drawings of each view of the building and explained how he would incorporate design features that are found on the house. The existing garage is quite old and they would like to replace it with a new carriage house structure. It will have room for three cars and will sit behind the house on the east side of the lot rather than the current position on the west side of the lot. *Motion by Wessels to amend the original motion to not include the roofing material until more information can be obtained about the suitability of synthetic slate for a historic residence. Second by Culbertson. Motion carried. Vote on original motion. Original motion carried as amended.*

309 W. Main Street – the commission had questions about the material to be used for the porch stairs, but the homeowners were not present. There was a concern that the steps not be replaced with concrete steps. The application appeared to indicate that all worn materials would be replaced with like materials. *Motion by Wessels to approve the application. Second by Culbertson. Motion carried.*

136 Garfield- *Motion by Wessels to approve the application. Second by Culbertson. Motion carried.*

33 N First Street - *Motion by Culbertson to approve the application. Second by Wessels. Motion carried.*

101 West Church Street – **Motion by Wessels, second by Decker to approve this sign application.** After review of the drawings presented and discussion, *motion carried with the understanding that the original stained glass window would not be removed from the building, only covered with a new window.*

Update on Survey- Mayor Decker contacted him via email but hasn't received a response. She will request that Tim attend the June meeting. The project is to be done by June 15.

Bricks on Main Street – John Decker reported the grant application was submitted one day early. The scope of the work was reduced to enable it to come in under \$500,000 because they were told that would increase its chances of being funded. Jeff Farnsworth is researching a grant opportunity with the WI Department of Commerce. The estimate is \$130,000 to extend the brick to the length that was first proposed.

Grove Society- Betsy Ahner reported that the gas service has been moved to the building and the electrical is also going to be moved.

Redevelopment Authority – John Decker reported that there is an accepted offer to purchase on the roller rink building pending the approval of a conditional use permit for a restaurant to operate there. The front of the building would have the windows put back in and the building would be remodeled to house one restaurant and two retail spaces. They are aware that they need to come before this committee for approval. The project would be timed for completion when the street reconstruction is completed.

Large Scale Commercial Development Committee – Mayor Decker reported the draft is going to the Plan Commission in June. It will be considered in sections because it impacts a number of ordinances for lighting, signage, noise, etc. The committee has recommended a limitation on size to 50,000 sq. ft., which is about double the size of the Piggly Wiggly.

City Hall Remodel – Bill Connors received the preliminary cost estimate from Foth and Van Dyke and it was quite high so the project may not happen this year. The exterior work on the roof and bell tower may be all that is done this year.

208 Main Street – Mayor Decker has received a letter stating that the owner of this house would like it to be declared the oldest house in the city but we do not have conclusive evidence that this is so. In fact it is more likely that a home in the Franklin neighborhood could be older since that is where the city started.

Baker Windmill Restoration – Baker Manufacturing will contribute half of the \$16,000 needed to purchase this restored wooden windmill but \$8,000 more is needed. Chris Eager has raised \$4,000 of that. After a discussion by commissioners, *motion by Wessels to contribute \$1,000 from the HPC budget to the project. Second by Decker. Motion carried.*

Mineral Point Preservation Weekend- John and Sandy Decker attended this event last year and found it very helpful. This year they are registered only for Friday afternoon to hear a presentation on preservation easements. Mayor Decker will try to get some input on updates needed to our easement.

Jeffries Grant - the grant deadline for this quarter is June 1. Sandy had hoped to submit an application to bring someone from the Dry Stone Conservancy of Lexington, KY to Evansville to advise us on the creek walls in Lake Leota Park. However she has received an indication that there is a move to organize a statewide conference on landscaping this fall which may include that topic. She will obtain more information at the Mineral Point conference this weekend.

Other business – Steve Christens will be absent from the June 21 meeting and voiced his concern about the effect of this on a quorum.

Louise Keely and John Decker were welcomed as new members of the HPC and thanked for their participation and willingness to serve.

Motion at 8:30 PM by Wessels to adjourn the meeting. Second by Decker. Motion carried.