Evansville Historic Preservation Commission

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 6:30 P.M.**

**Evansville City Hall**

**Present:** Steve Culbertson, Rich Modaff, Betsy Ahner, Ald. Gene Lewis, John Decker,

Matt Koser.

**Absent:** Steve Christens.

**Also Present:** Community Development Director Jason Sergeant, Roger Berg, Dan Emery, Jason Grover, and Mary Koehl.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Richard Modaff.

Motion by Koser to waive the reading of the February 18, 2015 minutes and approve them as printed. Second by Culbertson. Motion carried.

Citizen appearances other than on agenda items listed: none.

**Applications**

144 W. Liberty Street. – Motion by Decker to accept the application. Second by Koser. Jason Grover appeared in support of the request to construct a 4 ft. picket fence along the east and north lot lines of this corner lot. Motion carried unanimously.

268 W. Liberty Street. – Motion by Culbertson to recommend the issuance of a demolition permit. Second by Lewis. Roger Berg appeared to explain that he is in the process of purchasing this fire-damaged property, but that title is still held by ARAK Properties, LLC. He also advised that ARAK’s insurer had engaged a licensed asbestos abatement contractor to remove suspected asbestos containing material. Emery and Koehl expressed concerns of neighbors that demolition be expedited, but that the Transite siding be handled appropriately to prevent release of friable asbestos particles. Sergeant noted that a written demolition permit application has not yet been received, but that he had been in frequent contact with representatives of the owner and with neighbors. A recommendation from the Commission in advance of receipt of a written application will expedite the process.

Motion by Decker to amend to condition the Commission’s recommendation upon examination of the property by a licensed asbestos investigator or contractor and, if asbestos containing material is found, to have the material abated by a licensed asbestos removal contractor. Second by Culbertson. Motion to amend carried unanimously.

The main motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

243 W. Main Street – Culbertson vacated the table for consideration of this item. Motion by Ahner to accept the application. Seconded by Koser. Culbertsons propose to replace the sash of all first-floor windows with custom-built, vinyl-clad sash with the same dimensions and double-hung construction as the original window sash. Insulated glass will be used. Motion carried 5-0 with Culbertson abstaining.

**New Business**

WAHPC awards. Motion by Culbertson to authorize payment of 2015 dues in the amount of $40.00 for membership in the Wisconsin Association of Historic Commissions, Inc. Seconded by Koser. Motion carried unanimously.

By consensus, the Commission authorized Decker to submit an award application to WAHPC in the category of Economic Development/Revitalization for the Commission’s work in support of the historic rehabilitation of the first block of East Main Street.

**Other Business**

Baker Building Museum. Ahner reported that Val Eaton is serving as museum coordinator for the Grove Society and is maintaining hours at the museum on Saturday afternoons. Visitor attendance has increased, and the museum collection is being organized and cataloged. The Grove Society would also like to have the Commission’s authorization to reprint the “Historic Evansville” coloring book that was previously published by the Commission. Decker moved to authorize Evansville Grove Society to reprint the coloring book and to receive the proceeds of sales. Seconded by Lewis. Motion carried unanimously.

Decker reported that the WAPAC Conference is April 25 in La Crosse and will feature a presentation on Mid-Century Modern architecture and its eligibility for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Culbertson. Second by Lewis. Motion carried at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Decker

Acting secretary

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