

BOARD/COMMISSION: Historic Preservation Commission

DATE: April 28, 2011

MEETING: Regular

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:38 p.m.

QUORUM: Yes

ADJOURNED: 9:15 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Chairman Marks,
Commissioners Loftus,
Manak, Isaac, Janninck,
Wilson and
Salamunovich

LOCATION: Glen Ellyn Civic Center

**ABSENT: Commissioner
Kummerer**

ALSO PRESENT:

Trustee Liaison Ladesic,
Staff Liaison Letson

1. Call to Order

Chairman Marks called the Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. on March 28, 2011.

2. Approval of Minutes - March 24, 2011

Chairman Marks stated the minutes from March 24, 2011 were presented to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Wilson mentioned that under the Historical Society Business, the Landscape Workshop was held by the Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation, not the Historical Society.

Chairman Marks indicated there was a spelling error on page 2.

Commissioner Manak motioned for the approval of the minutes from March 24, 2011 as amended. Commissioner Isaac seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments

No members of the public spoke.

4. Old Business

This item was not discussed.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of Downtown Historic District Nomination

Commissioner Isaac stated that he attempted to contact the Art Institute of Chicago, but has yet to hear back. He will attempt to contact Jim Peters again within the next month.

In an effort to bring Commissioner Wilson up to speed on the historic district, Chairman Marks provided some background on what the Commission has already done and the next steps. One of which is to begin having talks with downtown business and property owners to educate them of the benefits of having a historic district.

It was suggested that the Commission work with the Downtown Alliance to get the word out. Commissioner Loftus volunteered to look into this.

Commissioner Isaac requested that a list of benefits of being located in a historic district be developed. Staff Liaison Letson said this is something he could do.

B. Historic Preservation Awards

There were four homes that were nominated for the 2010 Historic Preservation Awards. The homes were 679 N. Main Street (Restoration of the Year), 544 Hillside (Renovation of the Year), 309 Forest (Renovation of the Year) and 541 N. Kenilworth (Renovation of the Year).

The Commission reviewed photos taken by Commissioner Isaac and the property owners. General discussion took place regarding the work that was done on each home. Some discussion took place over whether or not the home on Hillside had been sold. Also, it was noted by many on the Commission that the work done on 309 Forest was very nice.

Commissioner Manak moved to award the Renovation of the Year Award to 309 Forest and 544 Hillside. Commissioner Isaac seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Members of the Commission noted that the owners of 679 N. Main did a wonderful job of restoring the home and it was clear they had done a lot of research.

Commissioner Manak moved to award 679 N. Main Street as a Restoration of the Year. Commissioner Manak seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed whether or not an award should be given to 541 Kenilworth as no photos of the home were available. It was suggested that the Commissioners could drive by the house and inform Staff Liaison Letson of their opinion before the next meeting. Three members of the Commission had seen the home and declared that it would easily meet the requirements of the award. Some argued that their testimony was enough and the award should be voted on tonight.

Commissioner Manak moved to award a Renovation of the Year Award to 541 N. Kenilworth. Commissioner Isaac seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Discussion of Ackerman House on St. Charles

Commissioner Marks provided some background on the Ackerman House. He stated that he spoke with the broker and informed her of how important the house is to the Village. Commissioners discussed taking a tour of the house in the near future. Staff Liaison Letson stated that if 3 or more Commissioners were present, it would be necessary to post a public meeting notice. Chairman Marks agreed to speak with the broker about setting up a tour.

D. Surrounding Community Sign Codes

Commissioner Manak looked into the sign codes for Highland Park, Lake Forest and Winnetka. Winnetka has yet to respond.

E. Other

Chairman Marks presented information regarding a variation request for 566 Hillside to replace their front porch. The porch is currently legal non-conforming, as it sits in the setback and needs to be replaced due to deterioration. Chairman Marks stated that the homeowners went before the Village Board to request that the variation requirement be waived. He also stated that there are many communities that provide administrative variation processes for historic homes and this is something the Village should look into.

Commissioner Salamunovich stated that since the homeowners are only going to replace the porch and not build anything new, that they should not be required to go through the process.

Commissioner Manak moved to have Chairman Marks write a letter to the Village Board concerning 566 Hillside and the intent of the owner to replace the existing front porch and that they should be able to receive an exception to the variation process. The letter should also state that the Village Board should consider an administrative variation process for architecturally and historically significant homes. Commissioner Salamunovich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Historical Society Business

No report.

7. Chairman's Report

Chairman Marks encouraged the Commissioners to attend the upcoming statewide preservation conference.

8. Trustee Liaison's Report

Trustee Ladesic stated that the manager search is coming along and an announcement should be made in the not too distant future.

8. Staff Liaison's Report

Staff Liaison Letson stated that the Building Department was unwilling to provide additional notification when a demolition permit application is submitted. The department argued that Chairman Marks already receives notification.

9. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Chairman Marks stated the next meeting will take place on May 26, 2011.

With no further business, Chairman Marks asked for a motion to conclude the meeting. Commissioner Loftus motioned for adjournment. Commissioner Manak seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Andrew Letson, Staff Liaison