

MINUTES

BOARD/COMMISSION: Historic Preservation

DATE: 07/26/12

MEETING: Regular

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:37 p.m.

QUORUM: Yes

ADJOURNED: 8:55 p.m.

LOCATION: Glen Ellyn Civic Center

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Chairman Marks, Commissioners Christiansen, Isaac, Manak, Rasnic, Saliamonas, Wilson, Student Commissioner Buckton

EXCUSED: Commissioner Salamunovich

ALSO PRESENT: Recording Secretary Solomon; Audience participant Mike Wilson

1. Call to Order

Chairman Marks called the Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission regular meeting to order at 7:37 p.m., in the Civic Center at 535 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Rasnic moved to approve the minutes from the June 28, 2012, regular meeting and Commissioner Saliamonas seconded. This motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

3. Public Comments

None

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

A. Continued Preliminary Discussion for Landmark Status – 716 Crescent Boulevard

Chairman Marks re-introduced property owner Mike Wilson of 716 Crescent Avenue. Chairman Marks stated that there was no motion for Preliminary Determination at the June 28, 2012 meeting so this motion needed to be done tonight so a Public Hearing on this could be held during the August meeting. Chairman Marks thanked Mr. Wilson for the home tour about a week and a half earlier for some of the HPC Commissioners. Commissioner Manak referred to the June 28, 2012 minutes on page 4 where it states, "The Commission will try to have the tour take place before they act on the preliminary determination," and stated that the Commission was going to vote on the preliminary determination at tonight's meeting. General discussion took place regarding the property, and all Commissioners were in agreement that the home qualified for preliminary determination.

Commissioner Isaac stated that the application was filed on the basis that it is a Frank Lloyd Wright home and qualifies for landmark designation under the following criteria:

1. Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social or other aspect of the heritage of the Village of Glen Ellyn, the State of Illinois, or the United States (Prairie style frame and stucco home);
2. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social or other aspect of the development of the Village of Glen Ellyn, the State of Illinois, or the United States (in reference to the home being attributed to designer Frank Lloyd Wright);
3. Its exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness or overall quality of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship;
4. Its unique location or distinctive physical appearance of presence representing an established and familiar feature of a neighborhood, community or the Village of Glen Ellyn.

Commissioner Isaac made a motion to move forward with the preliminary determination of Glen Ellyn landmark status for the property at 716 Crescent Boulevard, under Village Code Section 2-13-3, criteria numbers 1, 3, 4 and 6. Commissioner Manak seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

B. Tree behind Stacy's Tavern

Chairman Marks stated that this is not in the HPC's purview, but the tree behind Stacy's Tavern was badly damaged in the July 1, 2012 and may be cut down by the Village. Chairman Marks would like the Village to try to save the tree as it could be pruned and have damaged branches removed. Student Commissioner Buckton asked if the tree could

damage Stacy's tavern to which Chairman Marks stated that it is a small tree and is not a danger to the museum. Commissioner Isaac stated that he heard about new regulations for power companies which allow them to clear-cut trees in the cause-way. Chairman Marks stated that cutting is fine on the trees, but shaping should be done also. A discussion followed regarding trees that came down after the storm and possible companies that do trustworthy landscaping work.

C. Green boxes around Glen Ellyn

Commissioner Manak stated that he mentioned about the multitude of green boxes around town at the previous meeting. Chairman Marks stated that Trustee Cooper stated these are AT&T's boxes and must be allowed by federal law. Commissioner Manak stated that he did not mind the boxes as they are for the public good; however, it would be good to put some plantings around the boxes to hide the boxes some, but not block any access to them.

D. Churchill Woods House on St. Charles Road

Commissioner Wilson stated that Ms. Gilbert was going to make a presentation before the Forest Preserve District to see about more funding to repair the home's roof. She stated that Mike Formento is still very interested in fixing this home. She stated that she heard that the name of the grandfather of one of the people running for Forest Preserve Commissioner is on the plaque, and that this person is very interested in fixing up the home.

E. Local Landmark Districts

Commissioner Wilson stated that the HPC needs to further the local landmark districts, possibly with the homes on Phillips Avenue or the homes on Forest Avenue. Chairman Marks stated that he would like to start with the property owner for the landmarked home on Forest Avenue and Anthony Street as this owner had indicated an interest in a local landmark district. Chairman Marks stated that a couple members of the HPC could do a small informal coffee for anyone interested. He stated that he would also like to approach the property owner of one of the homes on Hillside Avenue. Chairman Marks will have Staff Liaison Strong send out an email to the owner of that property to see if they are interested in having an informal coffee to learn more.

F. Downtown Historic District

Commissioner Isaac asked where the HPC was on the Downtown District. Chairman Marks stated that the people in Springfield agreed with the boundaries and mentioned a few other buildings the HPC may want to consider adding to this Downtown District nomination. Chairman Marks stated that the Village is close to picking an experienced consultant to write the nomination, and that the Village will use grant money to hire them.

G. Civic Betterment Nomination Committee

Commissioner Isaac and Commissioner Wilson are on the Civic Betterment Nomination Committee and looking for people to run for the vacancies of Village President, three Village Trustees and three Library Commissioners. Commissioner Isaac stated that they need more volunteers for the Committee, and that the idea is to keep the politics neutral to find good candidates to run for the open positions. He stated that anyone who wants to learn more about the Committee or who are interested in public service is welcome to come to a meeting.

H. Ackerman House at 633 St. Charles Road

Commissioner Manak asked for updated information on the Ackerman House to which Chairman Marks stated that the home is still for sale and is now extremely low in price. Chairman Marks stated that someone handy could buy the house, rehab it and then either live in it or sell it. A discussion followed about possible buyers, possible rehabbers and possible rental uses for the home. The HPC Commissioners will reach out to local contacts and community organizations to see if anyone may be interested in buying the property.

I. 750 Elm Street

Chairman Marks asked if anyone had information on the Victorian home in foreclosure at 750 Elm Street. He stated that this home is still for sale.

J. Information about Landmarking homes

Commissioner Rasnic asked why there is not more information out about landmarking local homes. Chairman Marks stated that it would help if there were more consistent public relations in the newspapers to talk up the landmarking program, and Commissioner Manak stated that the Village does put information in the Quarterly Village Newsletter. Commissioner Rasnic stated that there a big push by the people at The Patch to get the local Patches very active in the local communities. Commissioner Isaac asked if someone from The Patch or other media could be invited to sit-in at an HPC meeting and help to brainstorm ideas on how to get the word out about landmarking homes. Commissioner Christiansen asked about the Village sending out press releases on recently landmarked homes.

K. Glen Ellyn Arts Fair

Commissioner Rasnic stated that the Glen Ellyn Arts Fair will be August 25th and 26th, and that it would be a good idea to have a booth which non-profit organizations could use for 2-hour blocks. Chairman Marks stated that the HPC and the Glen Ellyn Historical Society could

share a booth. A discussion followed about possibilities for booth ideas and hooks/draws that might draw people into a booth.

L. Marcel's

Chairman Marks stated that he called the state regarding incentive programs for Marcel's Culinary Experience located at 490 N. Main Street. He stated that the State mentioned the work was done on the building before an application for incentives was submitted, and therefore, may not qualify. Chairman Marks stated that he would still like to go back to Ms. Foucre and let her know the HPC would like her to landmark the building.

M. Mulch around Parkway Trees

Commissioner Saliamonas stated that the Village has lost many trees, and that she is seeing "volcano mulch" being done around parkway trees. She stated that there was an article in the Village's newsletter that the mulch should not touch the bark of the trees. Chairman Marks stated that she should go to the Village, talk to the new Certified Arborist and possibly see about putting a page in the water bill discussing this issue.

N. Monthly Demolition Report

Commissioner Rasnic referred to the Monthly Demolition Report in the Commissioners' packet and asked why the HPC does not know about these homes in advance. Commissioner Manak stated that the HPC has asked for notification of details and pictures on any homes that are 50 years old or older. Chairman Marks stated that he would speak to Staff Liaison Strong about this.

6. Historical Society Business

None

7. Chairman's Report

None

8. Trustee Liaison's Report

None

9. Staff Report

None

10. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Chairman Marks stated that the next meeting will take place on Thursday, August 23, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

With no further business, Chairman Marks asked for adjournment. Commissioner Rasnic motioned for adjournment, and Commissioner Saliamonas seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 7-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Debbie Solomon, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by: Michael Strong, Administrative Intern