

MINUTES

BOARD/COMMISSION: Historic Preservation
Commission

DATE: 2/18/16

MEETING: Regular

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:33 p.m.

QUORUM: Yes

ADJOURNED: 9:23 p.m.

LOCATION: Glen Ellyn Civic Center

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Chairman Marks, Commissioners Dieter (arrived at 7:45 p.m.), Fisher, Loftus, Manak, Saliamonas and Schreiber

EXCUSED: Commissioners Christiansen and Wilson

ALSO PRESENT: Trustee Liaison Senak, Village Planner Stegall and Recording Secretary Utterback

1. Call to Order

Chairman Marks called the Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission regular meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. in the Civic Center at 535 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

2. Approval of Minutes

No minutes were available for approval.

3. Public Comments

David Firchau of 108 S. Ellyn stated he moved near Wagner School in 1970 and attended classes there. He stated he has many fond memories of Wagner School and added that Panfish Park had just been built in that area at that time. He added that he was able to get some souvenirs from the school when it was torn down in 1988 and that he currently belongs to The Wagner School Group. He stated that he would like to have a plaque installed at the site where Wagner School had been located which is just south of the animal hospital on the east side of Park Boulevard at Taft Avenue. He added that the location of the new Police Department is next door to where Wagner School was. Chairman Marks stated that the HPC has installed plaques around town.

Commissioner Manak asked where the plaque would be located and if it would be free-standing. Mr. Firchau responded there is a building currently at that location and the HPC could contact the owners regarding having a plaque there. He also suggested incorporating a flagpole and perhaps a masonry arch with the plaque. Commissioner Schreiber asked if the HPC would present this plan to the Village Board or accept donations from a citizens' group since they do not have a large budget. Commissioner Schreiber agreed with memorializing the project but felt that the problem is that the park is at such a busy street that the owners may want to provide input into the design or may not want something that large on their property. Commissioner Manak responded that the project does not necessarily need to be large and that perhaps the owners of the building would be willing to pay some or all of the cost as the site is historic. He added that he is very much in favor of the plaque. Mr. Firchau suggested asking School District 89 if they would be in favor of contributing to this project as Wagner School is one of the few schools torn down in this area. He also stated that there are approximately 2,200 people on the Wagner School website, and Commissioner Manak suggested forming a committee regarding this project. Mr. Firchau responded to Chairman Marks that he believes Wagner School was built in 1908 and added that it was torn down in 1988. Audience member Karen Hall, Director of the Glen Ellyn Historical Society, stated that there were two schools named Wagner School and that the subject school was built in 1926. Chairman Marks responded to Commissioner Schreiber that Mr. Firchau attended this meeting to see if the HPC would be responsive to this idea before proceeding. Commissioner Schreiber moved, seconded by Commissioner Manak, that the HPC is receptive to moving forward with the subject proposal and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. Old Business

A. Historic Preservation Commission Annual Awards

Commissioner Loftus suggested Young's Appliances for Restoration of the Year for their sign. Commissioner Saliamonas responded to Chairman Marks that there is a house on the 500 block of Newton Avenue on the west side of the street that has had a very attractive addition added onto the rear of the home and could be recommended for remodeling of the year. Chairman Marks stated that the house at 425 Arlington is plaqued, however, landmarking is being considered. He stated he will check on the completion date to find out when that property would be a candidate for landmarking and added that the family name is Karnick.

B. Discussion of HPC Brochure for Local Contractors and Real Estate Agents

Commissioner Schreiber read the original letter that he wrote regarding preservation and restoration of significant homes in Glen Ellyn. Commissioner

understands that the HPC is advisory in nature, however, is doing their job by reviewing projects. Chairman Marks stated that the National Register approved this project prior to the change in the glass doors and he did not know if the change would impact the status of the boathouse. Commissioner Schreiber asked the Commissioners if they feel obligated to pursue this issue or not since the permit has been issued. Commissioner Loftus felt that the Commission should move forward with this project and stated that Architectural Review Commissioners were asked to vote on incomplete information regarding the doors several months ago. Commissioner Fisher stated that education is an element of this Commission and he felt that the public should be educated by sending out the letter. Commissioner Dieter stated that the doors are easily changed to be consistent with the intent of the original plans, the letter should be sent and if the HPC received incomplete data, that was very misleading to the Village and it should be presented again to the ARC. Trustee Senak added that he respects the opinions of the various Commissioners and gives a great deal of deference to the judgments of the Commissions. Ms. Stegall stated that if there was a difference between what the ARC saw and what is currently being proposed she would be concerned. She stated, however, that the doors match what is on the elevations that the ARC saw and which are attached to the ordinance. She added that the only difference is that the two doors by the storage room do not have lights because it was felt that a view into the storage room was unnecessary and that otherwise these doors match exactly what the ARC saw and the plans that are referred in the ordinance that was approved. Commissioner Schreiber stated he supported the letter as written. Some Commissioners expressed concern regarding photos they had seen of the doors which were different than they actually are and the fact that no description of the doors was given. Commissioner Manak asked if the letter is still timely. Trustee Senak felt there is a way to compromise on this issue so that everyone is happy.

Commissioner Manak moved, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, that the revised version of the letter as addressed to the Park District Board of Commissioners previously drafted expressing the Historic Preservation Commission's point-of-view concerning the installation of the glass doors on the east or lake side of the boathouse be sent forward and therefore should be an expression of the opinion of the Historic Preservation Commission. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

5. New business

- A. Ms. Stegall responded to Chairman Marks that there is no news regarding the McChesney or Giesche properties. She added that Springbank is talking to some of the surrounding property owners.

6. Architectural Review Commission Report

Commissioner Loftus stated that JAYNE's women's clothing store will soon be located in town on Main Street. He stated the awning will be removed, the brickwork will be restored with limestone around it and there will be three lights. He added that there will also be a transit window and the exterior will be restored to its original 1920's look. Commissioner Loftus stated that they should open within 4-6 weeks. He also responded to Chairman Marks that they also have stores in LaGrange, Highland Park and Lake Geneva. Trustee Senak added that the Village approved an exterior façade award to JAYNE's for the purpose of restoring the exterior of the building.

Commissioner Loftus also stated that the old plumbing building on Park Boulevard has been demolished.

7. Historical Society Business

Chairman Marks referred the HPC to an article in Old House Journal on interior storm windows as a way to help preserve the original windows of a home.

8. Chairman's Report

No Chairman's Report was given.

9. Village Board Trustee Report

Trustee Senak stated that option 3 regarding street lighting that is a replica of the current fixture will go out for bid. He added that option 2 will also go out for bid and he believes option 5 will also go out for bid. He also stated that light can be dialed down on all of the lamps. Trustee Senak responded to Commissioner Saliamonas that the old lights will be recycled. Chairman Marks stated that the HPC wants to replicate the look of lights from an historical aspect. Trustee Senak stated that phase 1 of the Wayfinding Study that included the new signage has been given a green light and is likely to come up for funding. Trustee Senak stated that the Strategic Plan has been given approval and one of its elements is to embrace historic tourism. Trustee Senak stated that curbside composting has been approved by the Village Board and is a pay-as-you-participate plan. He added that no tax money will be spent for this program at this time and that the program will be reviewed in the future. Some discussion was had regarding the new police facility, and Trustee Senak stated that it has been demonstrated that there is a need for a new facility. Regarding the wayfinding study, Chairman Marks wanted to retain the same sign design as the one's currently in place at Village entry points to reflect the original history of the Village.

10. Staff Report

Ms. Stegall stated that meetings regarding the new police station are currently in progress. She also stated that there will soon be an Architectural Review Commission concept meeting on the former Marathon site.

11. Historic Society Report

Karen Hall stated that coming up at the history center will be presentations on Sears Homes and Co Co Chanel as well as a quilt show. Commissioner Manak passed around information regarding a vintage auto show on May 2.

12. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Commissioner Schreiber moved, seconded by Commissioner Manak, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Submitted by:
Barbara Utterback
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:
Michele Stegall
Village Planner