

## MINUTES

**BOARD/COMMISSION:** Historic Preservation

**DATE:** 12/21/17

**MEETING:** Regular

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:00 p.m.

**QUORUM:** Yes

**ADJOURNED:** 8:20 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Glen Ellyn Civic Center

**MEMBER ATTENDANCE:**

**PRESENT:** Acting Chairman Manak,  
Commissioners Christiansen, Dieter, Loftus,  
Vavra and Veum-Welsh

**EXCUSED:** Chairman Marks, Commissioners  
Darga

**ALSO PRESENT:** Associate Village Planner  
Purvis, Trustee Senak, Glen Ellyn Historical  
Society Executive Director Hall; Recording  
Secretary Solomon; Resident Billy Welsh

**1. Call to Order**

Acting Chairman Manak called the Glen Ellyn Historic Preservation Commission regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Civic Center at 535 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Acting Chairman Manak welcomed Billy Welsh in the audience, son of Commissioner Veum-Welsh.

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Approval of November 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Acting Chairman Manak asked for a correction of wording for a sentence under #5.

A motion was made by Commissioner Christiansen and seconded by Commissioner Welsh to approve the amended minutes of November 9, 2017. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

**4. Old Business**

## **A. Preservation Month Event**

Acting Chairman Manak stated Ramsey Historical Consultants would be able to put on a program at the Boathouse, and Ramsey's fee would be \$150. Acting Chairman Manak stated this program could potentially be a panel or two or three presenters. Acting Chairman Manak stated they do need to pick a date in May soon for the Preservation Month event. Associate Village Planner Purvis stated she would check with Glen Ellyn Park District Director Dave Harris to see what dates would be available in May for use of the Boathouse as a Saturday would probably not be available.

Commissioner Vavra stated the HPC does need to get rolling on this right after the first of the year. Commissioner Loftus stated they may need to avoid the third weekend in May as there are many home tours in the area that weekend. Commissioner Loftus stated a weeknight is usually better if they will be doing a presentation or a panel discussion.

Commissioner Vavra asked if there is any value working with one of the area house walks, or a Commissioner participate in a house walk in some way. Commissioner Vavra stated with a captive audience of people walking around and looking at great homes, he thinks it would be a good time to emphasize the character of the community without having to create an event to ourselves.

Associate Village Planner Purvis stated Joanne McDonald, who resides at the landmarked home at 250 Regent Street, has said she would open her home at any time if needed. Commissioner Loftus stated Mike Wilson might be willing to open his home as well.

Commissioner Christiansen stated since this is the first time the HPC is doing something for Preservation Month, it would be good to not over-saturate May with too many events. Commissioner Christiansen stated one to two events would be good so the events are done right.

Associate Village Planner Purvis asked if anyone knew contacts in Glen Ellyn. Commissioner Loftus stated he has been a leader for Wright Plus for over 20 years and does do the house walk in Oak Park the third weekend in May every year.

Commissioner Loftus stated the Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation used to do a house walk. Commissioner Loftus stated putting on a house walk is a huge task, and there can be some issues with insurance. Commissioner Loftus stated a trolley tour might be easier to do so you are not intruding on the residents and do not access the interior of the homes. Commissioner Christiansen stated the Citizens looked into

doing a house walk a year or two ago and decided not to do this as it is a lot of work and can be expensive.

Associate Village Planner Purvis stated a walking tour of the two Downtown Historical Districts had been suggested at a prior meeting. Commissioner Loftus reviewed the bullet point events on the top of the Staff Memorandum and stated a portion of these events has been done in the past 10 to 12 years. Commissioner Loftus stated he suggests doing something to get younger children involved which would be something different and more beneficial.

Commissioner Dieter stated it would be good to reach out to the Glen Ellyn Infant Welfare Society and see if they can piggyback off of the Welfare Society. Commissioner Dieter stated one central location could be used to incentivize the people to come and see speakers or something. Commissioner Dieter stated he thinks the group that would go to the Annual Housewalk that the Glen Ellyn Infant Welfare Society puts on, would be a different group than the group that already has historic interests. Commissioner Dieter stated they could capture a different clientele.

Commissioner Loftus stated he does not think the visitors doing the Infant Welfare Housewalk would not be the historic interest visitors too. Commissioner Loftus stated the Infant Welfare Housewalk looks more at the interiors and interior decorations of these homes. Commissioner Loftus stated the HPC is doing preservation events for educational purposes. Commissioner Vavra stated he can call the Infant Welfare Society to see if the HPC could do an enhancement to the day of the Housewalk.

Acting Chairman Manak asked about a possible Suburban Alliance meeting at the History Center. Commissioner Loftus stated the Alliance does meet quarterly, and different villages volunteer to host these meetings. Commissioner Loftus stated Glen Ellyn did host an Alliance meeting at the History Center a while ago. Acting Chairman Manak stated an Alliance meeting in Glen Ellyn would relate back to the staff memo bullet point about an educational meeting.

Acting Chairman Manak asked what would be the theme or purpose of the activities for Preservation Month and if the theme(s) should be broad or narrow. Commissioner Christiansen stated the purpose is to educate people about historic preservation. Commissioner Vavra stated they need to get the word out more about historic preservation.

Acting Chairman Manak stated he will contact Ramsey Historical Consultants to see if they can help come up with topics that could be discussed.

Associate Village Planner Purvis asked how they could reach out to young people. Commissioner Christiansen stated they could do a coloring page(s) in the Village newsletter and could use public places that are landmarked such as the Civic Center and the Horse Trough. Associate Village Planner Purvis stated they can only use landmarked homes in the coloring pages if the residents give permission.

Commissioner Vavra suggested the HPC should do something at the Taste of Glen Ellyn. Commissioner Loftus suggested the coloring pages could be turned in at the Taste of Glen Ellyn and judging could be done that day. Commissioner Loftus stated they need to do something for the children before school is out so we keep the children's interest.

Associate Villager Planner Purvis asked if the HPC would rent a booth at the Taste of Glen Ellyn, and who would man the booth. Trustee Senak stated it would be a good idea for the HPC to have a presence at the Taste. Commissioner Loftus stated the Glen Ellyn Historical Society has had a booth at the Taste.

Trustee Senak stated the architectural walking tours in Chicago are very popular and suggests doing something like that in Glen Ellyn.

Acting Chairman Manak stated they will continue this discussion at the January meeting.

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Illinois Statehood**

Commissioner Christiansen stated she had this agenda item added as Wheaton's Historical Commission did do a proclamation for the State of Illinois' Bicentennial and thinks the HPC should do something as well.

Commissioner Vavra asked if the Village was planning anything for this as it is coming in March. Trustee Senak stated he did not know of any plans.

Glen Ellyn Historical (GEHS) Executive Director Hall stated the State of Illinois' 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary would be GEHS' theme in 2018, and the GEHS is planning programs and events about Illinois history throughout 2018, including an Illinois Birthday Bash.

Commissioner Christiansen said she would draft a proclamation that the HPC can then approve and send on to the Village Board to be read at a Village Board meeting.

Associate Village Planner Purvis asked if the proclamation would then be sent to the residents as well. Commissioner Christiansen stated once the proclamation is passed then the Village could put it in the eNews and Village newsletter.

## **6. Historical Society Business**

Glen Ellyn Historical Society (GEHS) Executive Director Hall passed around the newest GEHS newsletter and reviewed the coming programs:

1. The History of the Chicago Auto Show by Mitch Frumkin – Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 2p.m.
2. Billy the Barber's Mirror: Reflecting on William de Fleurville's Friendship with Abraham Lincoln; an Untold Lincoln Story by Glennette Tilley Turner – Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 2p.m.

GEHS Executive Director Hall stated they are working on major renovations in the multi-purpose room of the History Center. GEHS Executive Director Hall stated the room will be much better looking and will hold more people for events.

## **7. Chairman's Report**

None

## **8. Village Board Trustee Report**

Trustee Senak thanked Associate Village Planner Purvis for including a handout on the projected opening dates for new businesses coming to the Village.

Trustee Senak stated the Village Board discussed the Taylor Street Pedestrian Underpass project which should start in spring 2018. Trustee Senak stated as a part of this project, the Village Board did discuss public art in the underpass, and the Environmental Commission is working with people from the Art Institute on this.

Trustee Senak stated the Village Board did discuss the Central Business District parking situation at Monday's Workshop Meeting along with the possibility of a parking garage and pedestrian access from the Civic Center parking lot to Main Street. Trustee Senak stated he does support a food and beverage tax to help fund a possible garage.

Trustee Senak reviewed the results from the Village Survey that was recently done. Commissioner Dieter stated this survey is very encouraging, and Trustee Senak agreed.

## **9. Staff Report**

None

## **10. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment**

Acting Chairman Manak stated the next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

With no further business, Acting Chairman Manak asked for a motion of adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Vavra and seconded by Commissioner Christiansen to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Debbie Solomon, Recording Secretary