

Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Summary of Minutes
January 4, 2016

Members Present:

Mardene Hinton (chair), John Adams, Jane Johnson, Terry Johnston, Jim Paul, and Ron Shank.

Also Present:

Michelle Sadler, Dr. Charles Balesi, Jacob Carlile, Shari Ebert, and Mark Wakat.

Members Absent:

Neely Provost-Regas and Pat Wagner.

Quorum Present.

Ms. Hinton called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm in the second floor conference room of the Kankakee County Building.

Public Comments:

Architect Jacob Carlile spoke about his effort to develop a Kankakee Historic District of 92 buildings. He has been working on this project since March 2015. Mr. Carlile has been in communication with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The 92 buildings are “qualifying contributing” buildings. They are all over 50 years old and are eligible for 20% tax credit for renovations. The IPHA is reviewing the request to create a historic district, and will do a walking tour in the near future. Mr. Carlile distributed a list of the 92 buildings and an overview map of the Kankakee buildings.

Minutes:

Mr. Johnston moved that the minutes of the December 5, 2015 meeting be approved. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Staff Report:

Regarding the KCHP Ordinance agenda item, Ms. Sadler stated that this item was approved by the county board. Both Ms. Sadler and Ms. Hinton requested one final review of the ordinance by all commissioners. Regarding the Web Site Updates agenda item, Ms. Sadler stated that the summer newsletter was now linked to the KCHPC website. She will soon post the public forum dates and meeting agendas and minutes. Dr. Paul requested that she create a link to the “French-Canadian Heritage Corridor” document on the website so that the link can be placed the orientation to the *Four Walking Tours of Historic Bourbonnais* that he is writing for the April 19 Bourbonnais public forum.

Preservation Commission Openings

Ms. Hinton stated that she contacted Mr. Dennis Baron about the open attorney position on the commission. He declined to take the position.

Historic Landmarks:

Under the Limestone Cemetery, Limestone Township agenda item, Ms. Sadler stated that this nomination was approved by the county board on December 8.

CLG Grant

Under the Township Histories Update agenda item, Ms. Hinton stated that all township histories were done. She further mentioned that Vic Johnson reviewed every township history submitted and made suggestions. Under Save the Date Invitations agenda item, Ms. Hinton said that these notices have gone out to the community. Regarding the Confirmed Village Meetings agenda item 1) Momence, Jan. 26, 2016, 7:00 pm, Earl D. Schoeffner Memorial Building, 105 E. 2nd Street—Jane Johnson has volunteered to set up, Ms. Hinton will provide cookies and water, Janet Christenson and Janine Gubbins Loftus will welcome guests; item 2) Manteno, Feb. 2, 7:00 pm, Leo Hassett Community Center, 211 N. Main Street—this forum will be discussed more at the commission’s Feb. 1 meeting; Aroma Park, Feb.23, 7:00 pm, Aroma Park Village Hall Conference Room, Lowe Road—Ms. Ebert will put the forum notice on the digital sign near the entrance to Aroma Park; Herscher, March 22, 7:00 pm, Herscher Village Hall, 272 East 2nd Street—this forum will be discussed more at the commission’s Feb. 1 meeting; Bourbonnais, April 19, 7:00 pm, Bourbonnais Public Library, White Oak Room, 250 West John Casey Road—Dr. Paul is creating *Four Walking Tours of Historic Bourbonnais* for this forum; and Kankakee, May 10, 6:30 pm, Kankakee Public Library, 4th floor gallery, 201 East Merchant Street—this forum will be discussed more at the commission’s Feb. 1 meeting. Regarding the Village Meeting Agenda Items, Ms. Hinton suggested that the commission use the Community Foundation donation for forum door prizes, water, and cookies. Regarding the Momence Opening Statements, Ms. Hinton give the introduction and Dr. Paul will participate. The Program will be conducted by Ken Itle.

Committee Reports:

There was nothing new to report on the Architectural Review Committee and the Education Committee. The committee is waiting for more information from Mr. Wakat regarding the historic landmark prequalification nomination for the Pope Brace Building, 197 S. West Avenue in Kankakee. By this time in the meeting, Mr. Wakat had left the room. Regarding the Education Committee, Ms. Hinton again requested a list of new contacts for *The Preservationist*. Dr. Charles Balesi suggested that the committee consider pursuing the idea of “history fairs” for children. The chair of the committee, Mr. Shank, will schedule a meeting of the committee for Dr. Balesi to more fully explain this idea.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business discussed because the agenda item under Old Business “City of Kankakee, List of Possible Downtown Historic District Properties” was addressed above by Mr. Carlile.

New Business:

Ms. Ebert and Ms. Hinton will develop a Facebook page for the commission. The public forums and other commission activities can be advertised on this Facebook page. Under the Announcements agenda item, Ms. Johnson reported about the IHPA meeting in Oak Park, IL that she and Gail Wallace attended. This workshop was about “Recent Past (1935-70) through Landmarks”. Surveys and documentation were also addressed at the workshop. In other New Business, Dr. Paul mentioned that he had finished *Walking Tour 1 of Historic Bourbonnais*. Ms. Sadler then stated that the deadline for the application for the 2016 CLG Grant is Feb. 29, 2016. Ms. Hinton suggested that the next step in our grant application may be for the creation of the surveys.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday February 1, 2016 at 4 pm.

Adjournment:

Mr. Johnston made a motion to adjourn at 5:02 pm. Mr. Shank seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Jim Paul, Secretary