

Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Summary of Minutes
November 3, 2014

Members Present:

Mardene Hinton (chair), Jane Johnson, Terry Johnston, Daron Kinzinger, Jim Paul, Ron Shank, and Pat Wagner.

Also Present:

Michelle Sadler and Neely Provost-Regas.

Members Absent:

John Adams and Diane Tomic.

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:

Brian Gadbois and Matt Whitis provided information on the courthouse handicapped ramp. Mr. Johnston requested elevation drawings as well as an overall aesthetic perspective of the courthouse which includes the ramp.

Duty of Minutes:

Dr. Paul volunteered to write minutes of forthcoming meetings while he is commission secretary.

Staff Report:

Ms. Sadler distributed commissioners' resumes for review. The resumes will be part of the CLG Application. She requested them back by the end of the week. In discussing the CLG Application further, Ms. Hinton mentioned that the Community Foundation awards grants in March—the application must be made in January. She stated that perhaps the commission can apply to the Community Foundation for funds to make up some of the “in kind” money in the CLG. Ms. Sadler stated that the CLG Application process was going smoothly. There was also discussion about the preservation commission's location on the county website. Ms. Hinton recommended that there be a conspicuous link for anyone to see and quickly access the commission specific website. Ms. Sadler said that she will now renew her work on posting county historic landmark photographs and descriptions on the commission's website. She would like all commissioners to submit individual historic site files with all the appropriate information.

Historic Landmark:

Ms. Sadler gave an update on the Landmark Status of the Reddick Gymnasium. She stated that due to a possible sale of the gymnasium by the fire department and pending possible purchase by the Reddick Alumni Association, the PZA and County Board may postpone an immediate decision on the landmark status.

Committee Reports:

Ms. Johnson reported on her recent CAMP training conference in Centralia regarding the importance of developing a preservation plan. She stated that our commission is moving in the

right direction, and that it may be easier to create historic landmarks in “pockets”—i.e., historic districts. Regarding the Intergovernmental Agreements agenda item, Ms. Hinton requested the commission’s view on whether to prefer an IA that covers the “entire city of Kankakee” or “building by building”. After hearing views on both sides, Ms. Hinton suggested asking the state’s attorney for insights. The commission agreed. Under the Ordinance Review agenda item, Ms. Wagner and Ms. Hinton led a discussion on Article I. A motion carried to approve the changes made. Regarding the reassignment of Article II, Ms. Wagner, Ms. Hinton, and Mr. Johnston volunteered to work on possible Article changes.

Communication/Marketing:

Ms. Neely Provost-Regas introduced herself and has applied for commissioner attorney status. Regarding Phil Angelo’s Historic Tourism Plan agenda item, Ms. Hinton said that she spoke to him, and stated that the commission is very interested in his plan, and that we agreed to work with him. Mr. Angelo plans to start work in January. Ms. Hinton next stated that an Architectural Review Committee is needed on the commission. She mentioned that if such a committee had existed last year, many of the Reddick Gymnasium prequalification and nomination problems would have been resolved during the review beforehand. Mr. Johnston, Ms. Johnson, and Mr. Shank volunteered for this committee. The last agenda item was the revival of the Education Committee. Ms. Hinton suggested that this committee could educate the commission by possibly providing a preservation article to read every six months, and that this committee develop once a year a workshop that would educate the commission and the public. Dr. Paul, Mr. Shank, and Mr. Kinzinger volunteered for this committee.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Several announcements were made: Ms. Wagner stated that the Herscher Historic Homes Tour will be on Sunday November 16 from 2-4 pm; Mr. Shank mentioned that the Bonfield Depot has been dissembled for future restoration (the building was deteriorating); Ms. Hinton reviewed news articles one of which was the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society’s “Midwest French Colonial History Tour” of May 20-25, 2015; and Ms. Johnson expressed concern about Mومence’s Range School property sale which includes two historical markers. The next meeting will be on December 1, 2014 at 4:00 pm.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Jim Paul, Secretary

Approved 12/1/14