

Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Summary of Minutes
December 1, 2015

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Michelle Sadler, Shari Ebert, Norma Meier, and Mark Wakat.

Members Absent:

Daron Kinzinger and Neely Provost-Regas.

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:

None.

Minutes:

Mr. Adams moved that the minutes of the November 2, 2015 meeting be approved. Mr. Shank seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Staff Report:

Regarding the KCHP Ordinance agenda item, Ms. Sadler stated that this item will go to the county board for approval on December 8. Regarding the Web Site Updates agenda item, Ms. Sadler stated that nothing new has happened. She does expect the remaining items to be placed on the website this winter.

Preservation Commission Openings/Resignation

Mr. Kinzinger requested acceptance of his letter of resignation. His input will be missed. Mr. Johnston moved to accept the resignation request. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ms. Wagner expressed concern over missing meetings due to her husband's illness. The commission encouraged her continued tenure. Ms. Hinton stated that if agreeable, she will approach Mr. Dennis Baron for the open attorney position on the commission. The commission agreed.

Historic Landmarks:

Under the Limestone Cemetery, Limestone Township agenda item, Ms. Sadler stated that this nomination will go to the county board on December 8. The commission was delighted with the *Daily Journal* front page coverage of the nomination in its November 30 issue. Under the Pope Brace Building (197 S. West Avenue in Kankakee) agenda item, Mr. Mark Wakat submitted the Historic Landmark Prequalification Form to the commission on November 30. Mr. Johnston stated that the history that took place in the building was more important than the architecture of the building. Mr. Shank mentioned that this building is the last survivor of historic buildings in that neighborhood. Ms. Johnson stressed the need for our commission to preserve such buildings which identify with a special and unique history. Mr. Wakat stated that he had talked with Mr. Anthony Rubano of the Illinois State Preservation Agency, and Mr.

Rubano mentioned that the history of the building was of national interest and that the architecture was of region significance. Mr. Wakat further stated that cities like ours are rehabilitating buildings like this with funding from multiple sources. Mr. Wakat also stated that this building is the last tangible connection to the great history that occurred there. The Architectural Review Committee of the commission recommended that Mr. Wakat proceed with the complete nominatin application. Ms. Johnson made a motion to that effect. Mr. Shank seconded the motion. Motion carried. In a related discussion about the city of Kankakee's support for preserving historic properties, Dr. Paul mentioned *The Herald's* November 24 front page article which stated: "*The city of Kankakee is working on a historical designation in the downtown area. A total of 92 properties were assessed. If the city earns historical designation, tax benefits can be offered to those property owners wanting to partake in the restoration projects.*" Ms. Hinton stated that she would request a list of those 92 properties.

CLG Grant

Under the Status of Township Histories agenda item, Ms. Hinton said that Ganeer Township was not complete but that Nancy Porter will finish it. She also stated that Vic Johnson has submitted information on Ganeer and Pembroke Townships. Under the Letter to Historical Societies and Municipalities; Report on Returns agenda item, Ms. Sadler distributed a list of persons who had contacted her as representatives of various groups. Ms. Hinton then distributed a draft invitation to "Kankakee County Preservation Plan Workshop" and welcomed editorial changes. Under the Village Meeting Reports and Assignments agenda item, Dr. Paul requested confirmation of April 19, 2016 from 7-8:45 pm in the White Oak Room of the Bourbonnais Public Library as the Bourbonnais public forum date and time. The commission agreed. Ms. Johnson plans to schedule the Earl Sheffner Memorial Building for the Momence public forum in January. Ms. Ebert will schedule the time and place for the Aroma Park public forum in February. Mr. Shank will schedule the time and place for the Herscher public forum in March. The Kankakee public forum will be scheduled in May. Manteno will be the last to be scheduled. Steering Committee member, Dr. Charles Balesi has made a suggestion for the time and place for that meeting.

Committee Reports:

There was nothing new to report on the Architectural Review Committee and the Education Committee. Ms. Hinton requested a few new contacts for *The Preservationist*.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday January 4, 2015 at 4 pm.

Adjournment:

Mr. Johnston made a motion to adjourn at 4:58 pm. Mr. Shank seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Jim Paul, Secretary