

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2023

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on March 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the First Floor Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Graham-White, Saeger, Raino-Ogden and Muhr (arrived late)

Absent: Commissioner Forehand.

Also Present: Interim Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Management Analyst/Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 26, 2023

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Krusinski and SECONDED by Commissioner Saeger to approve the meeting minutes for January 26, 2023 as modified below.

Commissioner Saeger corrected the spelling of her name in the minutes.

Chairman Franek asked that the second sentence of the second paragraph in Item 6: Other Business be rewritten as follows, “Lipo said he was not aware of any known concerns about Braun and mentioned an article from the Wednesday Journal in 1994.”

AYES: Chairman Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Graham-White, Saeger, Raino-Ogden

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was heard.

Commissioner Raino-Ogden asked the commission how they should handle him applying for work to be done on his historic property.

Chairman Franek asked that a family member of Commissioner Raino-Ogden present the drawings and he recuse himself from the discussion and the vote.

IV. DISCUSSION OF CONTRIBUTING OR NOTEWORTHY PROPERTIES TO CONSIDER FOR SIGNIFICANT PROPERTY STATUS

Chairmen Franek asked Commissioner Saeger to give an update on her research surrounding this agenda item.

Commissioner Saeger gave an update on how she identified potential properties and further stressed the importance of the property searchable database.

Commissioner Saeger gave thanks to Village Staff for their help researching the property at 936 Franklin.

Commissioner Saeger noted that she has not talked to any of the property owners of the potentially significant properties she is researching.

Commissioner Graham-White asked what the procedure was for adding new properties to the significant properties list.

Chairman Franek noted a conversation with Village Attorney Malina where Mr. Malina suggested the Historic Preservation Commission should ask the Village Board how to proceed with requesting new additions to the list.

A discussion ensued surrounding some of the properties Commissioner Saeger researched and why specific properties had been previously left off the Significant Properties List.

Chairman Franek suggested the Commission create a single list to submit to the Village Board and then ask for guidance on how to proceed with adding the properties to the significant properties list.

Commissioner Graham White suggested that the list be shortened by removing anything built after 1973. She also suggested the commission should consider standards outside of being older than 50 years when determining if a property should be added to the list.

Commissioner Raino Ogden suggested that the Martin Braun properties be bundled together.

A discussion ensued on grouping properties together for presentation.

Commissioner Franek noted the first step of this process should be by eliminating any properties that were not built at least 50 years ago.

Interim Village Administrator Walsh explained that any property owners would need to receive a notice via certified mail at least 14 days prior to their property being added to the list.

V. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROMOTION OF RIVER FOREST ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY

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A) Martin Braun and the Auvergne Neighborhood

Chairmen Franek noted that the village wide architectural study contains a biography on Martin Braun.

Commissioner Graham White noted that the biography stated Mr. Braun sold his property to Percy Julian.

A discussion ensued surrounding the implications of Mr. Braun selling the property to Percy Julian.

Chairman Franek asked if the Commission thinks it would be a good idea to make the Braun Neighborhood its own item when presenting potential significant properties to the Village Board.

Commissioner Saeger asked if the neighborhood could be made into its own district.

VI. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL WAYS TO PROTECT SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Commissioner Muhr gave an update on the significant properties map he has been working on.

Chairmen Franek noted the important role the significant properties map could play for people visiting River Forest or Oak Park for architectural tours.

Commissioner Raino-Ogden asked if the map will be put on the Village website.

Interim Village Manager Walsh noted that the Village is having troubles getting a Google Earth link to work on the Village website, but will continue working on it.

A discussion ensued surrounding the possibility of a home on the 1500 Block of Franklin built by the Architect Robert Cerny.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Krusinski and SECONDED by Commissioner Raino-Ogden to adjourn the March 23, 2023 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission at 8:08 p.m.

AYES: Chairman Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Saeger Graham-White, and Raino-Ogden.

NAYS: None.

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Motion Passes.

Respectfully submitted:



Luke Masella
Deputy Clerk/Management Analyst

Approved:



David Franek, Chairman
Historic Preservation Commission

5/24/23

Date