

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 29, 2022

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on September 29, 2022 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, Muhr, Graham-White, Forehand and Saeger.

Absent: Commissioner Raino Ogden.

Also Present: Assistant to the Village Administrator Matt Walsh

Following Roll Call, Chairman Franek asked new member Brian Muhr to introduce himself to the group.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 23, 2022

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Saeger and SECONDED by Commissioner Forehand to approve the meeting minutes for June 23, 2022 as presented.

AYES: Chairman Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Muhr, Graham-White, Forehand and Saeger.

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was heard.

IV. APPLICATION #23-02: APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR THE DEMOLITION OF A GARAGE AT 535 THATCHER AVENUE, RIVER FOREST, IL.

A. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Franek explained the procedures for the public hearing and asked Assistant Walsh to swear in those wishing to speak at the public hearings.

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David Potter, the applicant, addressed the Commission and provided a brief history of the home. Mr. Potter explained that the garage was not built at the same time as the primary structure and stated that the garage was in poor condition. Pictures were shown indicating the condition of the garage.

Dave Krecek, of Blue Sky Builders, introduced himself and stated that he has extensive experience designing and building garages at historical properties. The intent is for the new garage to complement the home.

B. DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

Commissioner Saeger questioned the accuracy of the historical survey's description that the condition of the structure was good.

Commissioner Graham White inquired on the date of the garage construction. It was confirmed that it was not at the same time as the home. Commissioner Graham White stated the condition is terrible and should be torn down. Commissioners Franek, Forehand and Muhr agreed.

Chairman Forehand asked for clarification that the Commission's task is to focus on the demolition.

Mr. Krecek asked about the next steps for approval for River Forest. Assistant Walsh stated that the next step would be the typical building permit review process.

C. DECISION REGARDING CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Commissioner Forehand made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner Krusinski to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness.

AYES: Chairman Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Muhr, Graham-White, Forehand and Saeger.

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

V. APPLICATION #23-03: APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR THE DEMOLITION OF A GARAGE AT 559 EDGEWOOD PLACE, RIVER FOREST, IL.

A. PUBLIC HEARING

Logan Raino-Ogden, on behalf of the applicant, addressed the Commission. Ms. Raino-Ogden stated the garage was constructed well after the home, and a growing oak tree is now

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jeopardizing the condition of the garage. Pictures were shown of the damage. Commissioner Forehand asked if there had been an original garage on the site.

B. DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

Commissioner Graham White stated the application is very similar to the prior case and should be demolished. Commissioner Forehand stated that the movement of the garage should help the home.

C. DECISION REGARDING CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Commissioner Saeger made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner Graham White to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness.

AYES: Chairman Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Muhr, Graham-White, Forehand and Saeger.

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

VI. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROMOTION OF RIVER FOREST ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY

Commissioner Saeger provided some information about the ad hoc group Preservation Oak Park, and its efforts to become a formal organization. Chairman Saeger stated that Frank Lipo, Executive Director of the Oak Park River Forest Historical Society, would be interested in addressing the Commission about preservation advocacy.

There was some discussion about the role of preservation advocacy in the historic preservation commission process. Commissioner Graham White stated there was value in a dedicated group providing education and research on historic properties. Chairman Franek stated he would contact Mr. Lipo about attending a future meeting.

Commissioner Saeger stated that the summer sidewalk tour was well attended, but recommended stronger promotion and partnership with the Park District on community events. Assistant Walsh informed the group that he would be attending the Tour de Proviso event in Riverside and would distribute historic home maps. Commissioner Graham White proposed an idea to create an interactive map for the Village website.

Commissioner Saeger raised the idea of adding properties to the significant property list. Chairman Franek mentioned concerns of cost and questioned how many properties would be considered. Commissioner Forehand asked if the survey included recommendations for review or updates. Chairman Franek stated there was not, although there is language about reconsidering midcentury modern homes after they have been standing for fifty years.

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Commissioner Forehand asked whether there is a repository of information to use for future updates to the survey. Commissioner Franek mentioned some inaccuracies in the survey that he was aware of, and Commissioner Saeger added the potential for new information to be found about properties through research.

Commissioner Graham White agreed that there should be a way to update the survey with correct information. Chairman Franek stated that a process should be created for verifying the accuracy of any updates. Chairman Franek and Chairman Forehand recommended that the discussion continue at the next meeting.

VI. DISCUSSION REGARDING ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF PRESERVATION AWARDS

Assistant Walsh confirmed that no award nominations had been received, and Chairman Franek recommended starting promotion earlier next year.

VII. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL WAYS TO PROTECT SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

None.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON DEMOLITION OF 7620 MADISON STREET

Assistant Walsh informed the Commission that the Village Board approved a bid award for the demolition of the property and work is expected to begin in October. The State Historic Preservation Office is reviewing a survey of the building that will be shared with the group after approval.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Muhr and SECONDED by Commissioner Saeger to adjourn the June 23, 2022 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission at 8:15 p.m.

AYES: Chairman Franek, Commissioners Krusinski, Muhr, Graham-White, Forehand and Saeger.

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

Respectfully submitted:



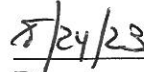
Matt Walsh
Assistant to the Village Administrator

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Approved:



David Franek, Chairman
Historic Preservation Commission



Date

