

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

December 17th, 2025

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on December 17th, 2025, in the 1st Floor Community Room of the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chair Franek, Commissioners Saeger, Forehand, Graham-White, Muhr, Schutzenhofer

Absent: None

Also Present: Management Analyst/Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeanne Calabrese and Dave Dwyer entered the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m. and provided public comment on the proposed lighting application for the River Forest Tennis Club. They argued that the Historic Preservation Commission should have the authority to review applications of this type and presented supporting evidence, including examples of other municipalities that they claim allowed such review. They also requested that these updated powers be included in the current rewrite of the River Forest Historic Preservation Ordinance and offered multiple suggestions for language to be added or altered in the ordinance.

Chair Franek asked that they submit their public comment and supporting documents to the Commission for review at a later date, noting that the Commission could not consider their request based solely on the comments provided during that evening's meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – October 23rd, 2025

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Muhr and SECONDED by Commissioner Forehand to approve the meeting minutes for the October 23rd, 2025, meeting.

AYES: Chair Franek, Commissioners Saeger, Forehand, Graham-White, Muhr, Schutzenhofer

NAYS: None

Motion Passes.

IV. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF DES PLAINES RIVER TRAIL PLAN

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
December 17th, 2025

Deputy Clerk Masella gave a brief presentation of the plan and fielded questions from members of the Commission regarding the project.

Chair Franek noted that he had no concerns from a historic preservation standpoint but did raise questions about potential traffic and safety issues associated with the proposed project. The Commission also discussed how local forest preserve wildlife might affect the path and the surrounding community.

V. REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF A PROCLAMTION IN HONOR OF FORMER COMMISSIONER DAVID RAINO-OGDEN

Deputy Clerk Masella read the proposed proclamation aloud, after which the Commission offered brief remarks in honor of the late Commissioner Raino-Ogden.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Saeger and SECONDED by Commissioner Graham-White to adopt the proclamation in honor of former Commissioner David -Raino-Ogden.

AYES: Chair Franek, Commissioners Saeger, Forehand, Graham-White, Muhr, Schutzenhofer

NAYS: None

Motion Passes.

Before the Commission proceeded to the next section, members of the public arrived and, with the Commission's permission to speak after the Public Comment period had closed, offered the comments summarized above in the Public Comment Section.

VI. PROPOSED REWRITE OF THE VILLAGE HISTORIC PRESERVATON ORDINANNCE – REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Chair Franek noted that, upon reviewing the latest draft of the ordinance, he identified sections that could be clarified for a general audience. He then highlighted the key proposed revisions to ensure the Commission was aligned on the new processes outlined in the rewrite.

Commissioner Saeger highlighted some scriveners errors in the draft document.

Commissioner Schutzenhofer requested clarification on how the historical powers of the Architectural Review Subcommittee differ from the powers outlined in the proposed rewrite.

Chair Franek gave a historical overview of the Architectural Review Subcommittee and the types of applications they have traditionally reviewed.

Commissioner Schutzenhofer asked why the term “certificate of appropriateness” was used to describe the Commission's project approval.

Commissioner Forehand explained that it is a standard term in municipal preservation.

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
December 17th, 2025

Chair Franek agreed.

Commissioner Schutzenhofer and Chair Franek continued their discussion on the Commission's powers and responsibilities.

Commissioner Saeger pointed out a section that still required updating concerning the Architectural Review Subcommittee's review timeline of proposed demolitions.

The Commission agreed to set the review timeline at 14 days for the review of proposed demolitions.

VII. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF RIVER FOREST ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY

Commissioner Forehand thanked the residents for attending and providing public comment. He then asked Chair Franek if, with the Commission's agreement, it could prepare a comment on the project for review by the Development Review Board and Village Board.

Chair Franek noted that he would like more information on the citations from the residents before moving forward.

Deputy Clerk Masella noted that because the project is technically a Planned Unit Development, the application is reviewed by the Development Review Board and the Village Board. He stated that he was unsure whether the Historic Preservation Commission would be able to provide a comment.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Franek extended warm wishes for a happy and safe holiday season to all.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Muhr and SECONDED by Commissioner Saeger to adjourn the December 17th, 2025, meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission.

AYES: Chair Franek, Commissioners Saeger, Forehand, Graham-White, Muhr, Schutzenhofer

NAYS: None

Motion Passes. and the meeting ended at 7:59 PM.



Luke Masella
Deputy Clerk/Management Analyst