

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

April 27, 2017

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on April 27, 2017 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 7:02 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Zurowski, Commissioners Franek, Graham-White, Popowits, Prestes, and Raino-Ogden

Absent: Commissioner Pritz

Also Present: Management Analyst Jon Pape

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was heard.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

No comments were heard in regards to the March 23, 2017 meeting minutes.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Franek and SECONDED by Commissioner Graham-White to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2017 Historic Preservation Commission meeting.

AYES: Chairman Zurowski, Commissioners Franek, Graham-White, Popowits, Prestes, and Raino-Ogden

NAYS: None

Motion Passes.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTY MODIFICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

Management Analyst Pape informed the Commission that no applications were received to be heard. He noted the window sub-committee did work with Christ Episcopal Church at 515 Franklin. The project involved an installation of a handicap accessible door and lift.

V. DISCUSSION REGARDING WEBSITE REDESIGN

Bill Gatewood, Vice President of Webitects introduced himself. He stated that he was seeking input from the Historic Preservation Commissioners on how the website can be improved for their needs. Mr. Gatewood welcomed input on what the Commissioners thought was important about the Commission.

Chairman Zurowski noted that one unique piece that the Commission has to offer is the historical survey database. He shared how it was an in-depth resource and helped to provide education and information on properties in the Village. Commissioner Prestes expressed that he felt many residents sought to learn more about the rules and regulations of historic preservation. Chairman Zurowski stated that in addition to the proximity to the City and the strengths of the schools, residents sought to live in the Village because of its architecture.

Commissioner Franek echoed the comments of Chairman Zurowski on the value of the survey database. Commissioner Franek added that this was a way to do research both on a resident's individual home or one they are specifically interested in for any variety of reasons. Chairman Zurowski cited the flowcharts in the new Historic Preservation ordinance as a useful tool in aiding residents to understand that process.

Further discussion was had on how the Commission may better be able to show how they are a resource to the community and clearly communicate what they stand for. Mr. Gatewood stated that the goal was for him to understand what is most crucial to key audiences so that they can prioritize content and draft the page.

The Commission discussed how the new historic map brochure could be presented on the page. Commissioner Franek agreed with others that it was imperative to express why historic preservation is important and how the Commission is a resource to the community. It was stressed that resources and materials need to be reorganized and prioritized to allow users to find them more easily. Particularly, this applies to the details of the ordinance and the survey information.

VI. REVIEW OF ONGOING COMMISSIONER ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman Zurowski asked the Commission to proceed to agenda item VII.

VII. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED RIVER FOREST HISTORIC PRESERVATION MAP

Chairman Zurowski noted that thirty-three properties were currently included in the draft of map content. The Commission noticed that one property needed to be corrected because it had the wrong photo. The Commission further discussed whether or not any properties needed to be eliminated or if the list should stand as is with these thirty-three properties. A handful of properties were considered if they should be either eliminated or added. Ultimately, the Commission decided that the number was sufficient. It was agreed upon that all thirty-three properties in the draft would stay with no additions. The only change to the draft in the meeting packet would be the one incorrect picture.

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A MOTION was made by Commissioner Popowits and SECONDED by Commissioner Graham-White to approve the list of properties for the historic map brochure as it was presented in the April 27, 2017 Historic Preservation Commission meeting packet.

AYES: Chairman Zurowski, Commissioners Franek, Graham-White, Popowits, Prestes, and Raino-Ogden

NAYS: None

Motion Passes.

Chairman Zurowski stated that he would like to assign properties to specific Commissioners to divide the writing of descriptions for properties. The Commission specified the format in which the descriptions would be written. The Commission circled around the room selecting and dividing up the properties that each member would write on.

Management Analyst Pape stated that he will share the list of the format along with the selected assignments. The Commission decided that the submissions would be due prior to the next meeting.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission would be May 25. Due to conflicts, June 1, 2017 was ultimately selected as the next meeting date. The Commission agreed that submissions for the map assignments would be due on May 22.

Commissioner Graham-White stated that the Ingalls home, 720 Keystone, and others were on the market. She mentioned that the 700 Block of William has seen heavy turnover in the last two to three years.

Commissioner Al Popowits noted that his next presentation was coming up on Monday, May 22.

Commissioner Franek asked a question regarding a detail at the new Community Bank that recently opened. Commissioner Franek also recommended 812 Lathrop for a historic preservation award. He cited drastically improved landscaping as the reason for his nomination. Management Analyst Pape stated he would send an application invitation to the property owner.

Chairman Zurowski asked if the Building Department could be consulted to help provide recommendations for applicants.

Resident Jan Saeger suggested that 558 Franklin be invited to apply for work they have done on the front porch of their property. The Commission agreed.

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IX. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Raino-Ogden and SECONDED by Commissioner Franek to adjourn the April 27, 2017 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission at 8:19 p.m.

AYES: Chairman Zurowski, Commissioners Franek, Graham-White, Popowits, Prestes, and Raino-Ogden

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

Respectfully submitted:

Jonathan Pape
Management Analyst

Approved:

Tom Zurowski, Chairman
Historic Preservation Commission

Date