

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

**June 1, 2017**

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on June 1, 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 7:01 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Commissioners Franek, Graham-White, Prestes, Popowits and Pritz

Absent: Chairman Zurowski, Commissioner Raino-Ogden

Also Present: Management Analyst Jon Pape

Management Analyst Pape asked for a nomination for a Chair Pro Tem to continue to the meeting.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Popowits and SECONDED by Commissioner Graham-White to appoint Commissioner Franek as Chair Pro Tem for the June 1, 2017 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission.

AYES: Commissioners Franek, Graham-White, Prestes, Popowits and Pritz

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

**II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Jan Saeger, 435 William, thanked Commissioner Popowits for his second presentation on historic homes in River Forest that he gave at the library. She noted the event was well attended and hoped these would continue. Ms. Saeger stated that she attended the presentation of the Washington School panels at Lincoln School. She noted that the other panel may be placed at Washington Park and commended the effort. She shared that she thought in the future the two panels could be locally landmarked.

Bill McDonald, 803 Bonnie Brae, also spoke to thank Commissioner Popowits for his presentations.

**III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

No comments were heard in regards to the April 27, 2017 meeting minutes.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Popowits and SECONDED by Commissioner Pritz to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2017 Historic Preservation Commission meeting.

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AYES: Commissioners Franek, Graham-White, Prestes, Popowits and Pritz

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. Management Analyst Pape informed the group that the window review sub-committee had assisted the Public Works Department in finalizing new windows for the pump house.

**V. REVIEW OF ONGOING COMMISSIONER ASSIGNMENTS**

Chair Pro Tem Franek asked if any Commissioner had anything new to report.

Commissioner Graham-White provided an update on at-risk properties. She noted that 606 Keystone was contingent, 1103 Keystone was pending (the Butler House), and that a Frank Lloyd Wright property was contingent.

**VI. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED RIVER FOREST HISTORIC PRESERVATION MAP**

Chair Pro Tem Franek began the discussion by working through the properties presented in the draft.

Commissioner Popowits raised his concern that some of the images were not good enough to use in the map. The commission discussed the concern and agreed new photos would be taken for consistency.

Before proceeding through all of the properties, the Commission discussed the consistency of the submissions for voice and length of each submission. Commissioners shared their writing process thoughts noting that the submissions varied in information from architectural to historical to interesting facts about each property. The Commission agreed that some consistency needed to be reached.

Commissioner Raino-Ogden arrived at 7:17 PM.

The Commission discussed the possibility of showing interior photos of and or discussing the interior of some of the properties. Some Commission members felt that this was an important part of the significance of the property while others felt that it was a slippery slope for pushback on the project.

Chair Pro Tem Franek suggested that the commission settle on a more firm length requirement and then charge a Commission member with being a single editor on the draft. The Commission discussed the word count and space issue. Additionally it was discussed that the parts of the

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description included, such as the historical and architectural facts, also impact the length. The Commission discussed individual descriptions to try to consider which could best be used as a model for others.

Commissioner Pritz took the task of serving as an initial editor of the draft content. He noted that he would be happy to accept any comments that Commissioners would like to be included. The Commission discussed a few edits related to date and spelling inconsistencies.

A discussion was had regarding the notation of landmarked properties. The Commission reviewed one property that had an unclear status.

The Commission agreed that it made sense to organize the properties based on location to help a visitor find the addresses.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Historic Preservation Commission would be June 22, 2017. Due to conflicts with this date, Commission agreed to schedule the next meeting over email.

Chair Pro Tem Franek asked if the Commission received any applications for the Historic Preservation Award. Management Analyst Pape assured that they would be included in the packet for the next meeting.

Commissioner Raino-Ogden stated that he has been working with the 700 Block of William on a lamp post to commemorate the history of the block. He said he would send details over to the Village to see how to proceed.

Commissioner Pritz said he would share his edits of the draft in advance of the next meeting.

Commissioner Graham-White asked about notification processes for the properties that are proposed to be included. This process was discussed. The legal need for permission to include a property was also discussed.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Raino-Ogden and SECONDED by Commissioner Graham-White to adjourn the June 1, 2017 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission at 8:11 p.m.

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

NAYS: None.

Motion Passes.

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Respectfully submitted:

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Jonathan Pape  
Management Analyst

Approved:

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Tom Zurowski, Chairman  
Historic Preservation Commission

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Date