

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

June 23, 2016 (Special Meeting)
Memorial Hall – Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale
5:00 P.M.

Commissioner Bohnen called the special meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to order at 5:00 p.m. on June 23, 2016 in Memorial Hall in the Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale IL.

Present: Commissioner Bohnen, Commissioner Gonzalez and Commissioner D'Arco,

Absent:

Also Present: Chan Yu, Village Planner

Minutes

Commissioner Bohnen introduced the minutes from the March 8, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Bohnen asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gonzalez made a motion and Commissioner D'Arco seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion – Historic Districts

Commissioner Bohnen reviewed that the HPC had a seminar presented by Susan Benjamin about historic preservation and the tax freeze incentive. He believes it's a good concept because it offers an incentive for historic homeowners to rehabilitate their homes to further preservation. The presentation was interesting, answered a lot of questions and brought up many questions too. To that end, Commissioner Bohnen is interested in an education seminar. However, he recognized the HPC first needs more commissioners. It started out as a nine member commission, next seven and eventually five. In March 31, 2016, the Hinsdalean interviewed the HPC and made an effort to reach out to the public to join the HPC. Commissioner Bohnen would like to grow the HPC to five and ideally seven again. To summarize, a membership drive, an educational session and the HPC taking a more meaningful position in preserving the heritage of the Village will be the focus moving forward.

Commissioner D'Arco asked how long ago it was since Kim Stevens was here.

Commissioner Bohnen replied about six years ago.

Commissioner Gonzalez mentioned that someone from the HPC used to attend a public meeting if architecture was involved. He thought it was nice to attend but believes the HPC was not being asked to perform the same responsibilities as the other suburbs.

Commissioner Bohnen reviewed that Hinsdale was placed tenth most endangered historic places by the State of Illinois Landmarks Council in 1998. More HPC background and history information ensued.

Commissioner D'Arco asked a question that has commonly come up; and that's why one would landmark their home given the red tape moving forward. She explained that there appears to be a growing number of young families that do not necessarily understand the reasons to pursue the designation.

Commissioner Bohnen explained that this again points back to education and was the reason for the seminar that the HPC and Susan Benjamin hosted. He asked Chan if the information has been uploaded to the website yet.

Chan, Village Planner asked if he was referring to the PowerPoint presentation.

Commissioner Bohnen replied yes.

Chan replied no, not that he is aware of.

Commissioner Bohnen requested this should be done.

Chan replied it will be done.

Commissioner Bohnen reviewed that Commissioner D'Arco's remarks are well taken and that the HPC needs the community to perceive it as proactive, helpful and cooperative with preservation.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked if it would be worth running an ad in the Hinsdalean for additional HPC Commissioners.

Commissioner Bohnen believed that would be a good idea and mentioned the Hinsdalean has always been very helpful and can ask them about it. He also reiterated on the focus for the HPC to help with construction recommendations and tax freeze assistance.

Historic Preservation Awards

Commissioner Bohnen complimented the Village of Hinsdale for the work, design and methodology of the new Oak Street Bridge and would like to present a Historic Preservation award to the Village at a future Board meeting. He made a motion for this, and it was unanimously "approved".

Commissioner D'Arco asked if it could be possible to give smaller awards or recognition to homes noteworthy for preserving homes that could have easily been torn down.

Commissioner Bohnen agreed and believes it is a good idea. He asked the HPC for a list of homes by the end of the year for such examples.

Commissioner Gonzalez mentioned that this could be for the HPC second tier program.

Commissioner Bohnen and Commissioner D'Arco agreed.

Chan asked about the Bridge Street and First Street Award and if this can be added for the next agenda as an approval item versus a discussion item if necessary. If it is not required, we will move it forward.

Commissioner Bohnen agreed and moved this item to the next HPC agenda contingent upon if it's required. Chan will report back to the HPC after reviewing with staff.

Other Business

Discussion in regards to second tier plaque design, size, material and vendors ensued.

Adjournment

With no additional discussion, Commissioner Bohnen asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gonzalez made the motion and Commissioner D'Arco seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m. on June 23, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chan Yu', written in a cursive style.

Chan Yu, Village Planner