

Approved

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

January 6, 2021

Memorial Hall – Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale
6:30 P.M.

Chairman Bohnen called the meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to order at 6:30 p.m. on January 6, 2021, conducted electronically, with a live audio stream of the meeting available to the public via Channel 6 and on the Village website.

Present: Chairman Bohnen, Commissioner Braden, Commissioner Weinberger, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Barclay, and Commissioner Haarlow

Absent: Commissioner Prisby

Also Present: Chan Yu, Village Planner and Applicant Representatives for Case: **HPC-33-2020**

Minutes – November 4, 2020

Chairman Bohnen introduced the minutes from the November 4, 2020, meeting and asked for any comments. With no comments or changes, the HPC **unanimously approved** the minutes for the November 4, 2020, HPC meeting, 6-0, (1 absent).

Signage

- a) Case A-30-2020 – 34 S. Washington Street – Coldwell Banker - Request to reface 2 existing wall signs in the B-2 Central Business District and Historic Downtown District. With no concerns and positive comments shared by some commissioners and the Chairman, the HPC **unanimously approved** to accept the request as presented, 6-0, (1 absent).
- b) Case A-34-2020 - 8 E. Hinsdale Avenue – Coldwell Banker - Request to reface an existing awning sign in the B-2 Central Business District and Historic Downtown District. With no concerns or comments shared, the HPC **unanimously approved** to accept the request as presented, 6-0, (1 absent).
- c) Case A-32-2020 – 47 S. Washington Street – Core Remodel - Request to install a projecting sign in the B-2 Central Business District and Historic Downtown District. With no concerns or comments shared, the HPC **unanimously approved** to accept the request as presented, 6-0, (1 absent).

Before moving on to the next segment of the meeting, Chairman Bohnen shared some concerns he had about signage in the downtown area. Chairman Bohnen's first concern was related to old signs remaining from former businesses cluttering up the downtown area. He feels these signs should be removed. Commissioner Braden asked if there was code mandating business to remove old signs, Chairman Bohnen stated there was no code

to his knowledge. The Chairman asked Chan to follow up with the Commission at the next meeting on the appropriate Village staff to direct this concern.

The second area of concern that Chairman Bohnen discussed was temporary signage allowed to exist for extended length of time. He used the example of two banner signs mounted to the brick wall of the building located on the north side of Second Street. Chairman Bohnen believed an ordinance existed addressing this issue and asked Chan to follow up with the Commission at the next meeting on the appropriate Village staff to direct this concern. Commissioner Braden asked if the brackets left behind once an old sign is taken down should be removed as well or if the brackets were grandfathered in. Chairman Bohnen was unsure.

Public Meeting – Exterior Appearance (referral from the Village Board)

- a) Case A-33-2020 – 26-32 E. First Street – Garfield Crossing - Request for Major Adjustment to the Exterior Appearance Plan in the B-2 Central Business District. Chairman Bohnen explained the request to re-work the front of the building and signage to accommodate a new business coming in. Upon evaluating the request from an architectural point of view, it was noted that Commissioner Prisby found nothing objectionable. Chairman Bohnen asked for comments on the request. Commissioner Haarlow asked if any representatives were present and Gail Singer identified herself and others as the applicants present. Commissioner Haarlow asked for clarifications on actual changes made & Ms. Singer stated the only proposed changes were noted in the application. Clarifications of changes to the awnings were discussed as well as the parking lot in the rear to be utilized by customers. Addressing concerns of Commissioner Gonzalez relating to the removal of the column, which he felt added to the character of the building, and doors used to create one entrance, Ms. Singer stated the replacement doors would be of same material and style of those existing and the column was not structural and if left in place with two doors would be confusing to the customer. The double doors are to be recessed and in the same location as the old doors.

It was clarified the only interior lightning to remain on overnight would be the window display and required emergency lighting. Concerns about the drive to the west of the building previously blocked by traffic cones for pedestrian safety from delivery trucks were discussed. Chan was asked to discuss these concerns with Robert McGinnis to ensure appropriate traffic flow and signage to ensure safety. With no further concerns or questions, the HPC **unanimously approved** to accept the request as presented, 6-0, (1 absent).

Public Comment

In response to Commissioner Haarlow's request for clarification on the Robbins Park signage project to also possibly include CBD signage, Chan confirmed the \$10,000 HPC budget remains unchanged in the approved budget and can be used for street sign toppers in Robbins as well as CBD. Chan will notify the EDC liaison of the request to assist with the cost of this project for the CBD signage.

Other Business

- a) Robbins Park Signage was discussed. Chairman Bohnen asked this topic and CBD street topper signage to be on the next meeting agenda. Template designs prepared by Sandy Williams would be used to obtain estimates of signage costs for Robbins toppers with the plan for Village crew to install at no cost. Chan will brief Nathan on the matter.

- b) The digital map of historic homes created by a Michigan contractor, circa 2014-15, seemingly has been lost in house. Chan reviewed minutes from October to November of 2014 and the fate of project could not be clearly obtained. It was suggested the digital map project was superseded by the Zook walking tour project occurring at approximately the same time period. Discussion followed by commissioners in attempt to jog the memory of the project, however little information could be recalled by members. If the invoice for the creation of the digital map could be located, it might provide additional clues as to the fate of this project. Chairman Bohnen will continue his effort to gather further information on the fate of the project. There was agreement that this project would still be of interest and of value. Commissioners Braden & Weinberger will begin to identify possible changes/updates using a dated version of an existing paper map.

- c) An update on Title 14 was shared by Chan. It is currently awaiting a complete set of comments from the Village Board. Chairman Bohnen asked the HPC meeting minutes from tonight to reflect the request for Title 14 to be placed on the agenda for Village Board consideration. Discussion followed on how to tie incentives into Title 14 and if it was desirable to do so. It was agreed to leave incentives out of Title 14 topic at this time with the idea it can be added at a later date.

Adjournment

The HPC unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:45PM on January 6, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Spires, Community Development Office