

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

February 12, 2013

Memorial Hall – Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale
5:00 P.M.

Chairman Peterson called the meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission to order at 5:04 p.m. on February 12, 2013 in Memorial Hall in the Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale IL.

Present: Chairman Peterson, Commissioner Harloe-Mowery and Commissioner Bohnen, Commissioner Hutter and Commissioner Gonzalez (5:05)

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, David Cook, Village Attorney, Michael Marrs and Village Planner, Sean Gascoigne

Minutes

Chairman Peterson presented the minutes from the January 8, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Bohnen motioned for the approval of the minutes from January 8, 2013. Commissioner Hutter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Chairman Peterson opened the meeting and began discussions regarding the proposal on First and Garfield.

Chairman Peterson complemented the two-story proposal and indicated that he would prefer to see the massing of the façade broken up better. He indicated that he also liked the parking being behind the building.

Mr. Gascoigne summarized the several moving parts taking place for this proposal and identified which approvals would be going before which Commissions.

Commissioner Bohnen offered his thoughts and also complemented the new developer for taking note and placing attention on some of the previous design suggestions from earlier proposals. He voiced his support for seeing this corner developed and indicated that even though this site was not in the Historic Downtown, he felt it was important to integrate the historic aspect into the design of it. He stated that the Commission would be providing a memo to the Plan Commission and that he intended to also attend that meeting to address some additional safety and circulation issues that he was concerned with. He offered some final thoughts in which he expressed his interest in working with the Village and the developer towards a satisfactory product.

Commissioner Gonzalez offered some additional thoughts regarding circulation and site plan issues specifically related to safety and encouraged the developer to consider outdoor seating if and where appropriate. He complemented the elevations and suggested the developer confirm that all ADA requirements had been met.

Commissioner Harloe questioned if the Village needed more office space.

Mr. Cook stated that while Hinsdale has a lot of office space, it does not have a lot of Class A office space. He indicated that in his conversations with the developer, the proposed office space has already received a significant amount of interest.

Commissioner Hutter indicated that it's always nice to see the potential for underutilized land to be maximized, provided it's done appropriately and the Village gets a good product. He expressed some concerns with parking but indicated that this was an ongoing problem in the downtown and that the proposal would be a very nice addition to First Street.

Chairman Peterson summarized the workshop and progress regarding the Architectural Tour Map and identified the next steps, including working with the Hinsdale Historical Society.

General discussion ensued regarding various workshops and events that could be beneficial to the Commission, including an upcoming book signing by Sandi Williams and an opportunity for the Commission to sponsor her new book.

Chairman Peterson asked the Commissioners to give an update on their progress regarding efforts for Preservation Month.

Commissioner Bohnen summarized his efforts in marketing Preservation Month and indicated that he now needed some direction from the Commission, so that he could proceed.

Commissioner Hutter expressed his frustrations in trying to initiate dialogue with the school districts and indicated that it may be too late at this point to try and coordinate efforts with curriculums.

General discussion ensued regarding some of the frustrations experienced in past years and the Commission concurred that given the current challenges, they may be better served by focusing their efforts on the Preservation Awards for the homes and deferring the different contests to next year.

Commissioner Harloe summarized her thoughts and updated the Commission on her progress with the judging, including their considerations for judges and the standards for judging.

General discussion ensued regarding the categories and the standards for judging, as well as the deadlines and dates for the nominations and judging should take place.

Commissioner Bohnen took a moment to make the Commissioners aware of a home on Washington that had been slated for demolition. He gave them a brief history of the home and expressed his disappointment that the home was not going to be saved. He expressed his frustrations with public's understanding of the preservation process, as well as the Commission's purview relative to comments that were made in local publications regarding the Villages' ability to stop the demolition. He indicated that he felt it appropriate to hold a workshop for the general public to educate them on what can and can't be done when it comes to preservation and that hopefully, through their efforts, the public could be informed and homes like this could possibly be saved in the future.

General discussion ensued and Chairman Peterson offered some final thoughts.

Adjournment

Commissioner Bohnen moved to adjourn. Commissioner Harloe seconded and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. on February 12, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sean Gascoigne
Village Planner