MINUTES
Historic Preservation Commission
November 4, 2004
Municipal Complex
100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on November 4, 2004, at the Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street.

II. Roll Call/Attendance

Present were the following Commission members: Brice Alt, Chair, Diana Kenney, Tom Nemcek, and Sue Riegler. Also present was Eric Helm, Assistant to the City Manager, and Bob Wyman.

III. Public Presentation

Mr. Wyman made a presentation regarding a toy train set that he helped to develop while employed at Quaker Oats Company. He stated that similar train sets could be placed throughout the City at various locations. He specifically mentioned that the train could be used along with the Historical Society Holiday Figurine display. He approached the Commission with the idea to sell the train sets and/or place advertising on the sides of the toy trains. He said this would be a great way to raise money for the Commission and the Historical Society. A minimum of 500 sets would need to be purchased from the manufacturer. He also mentioned that he hopes to create a set to simulate early trains that serviced Crystal Lake. Member Nemcek stated that the idea may be cost prohibitive, since the minimum train set order is 500. In addition, Member Riegler asked if the Commission could sell the trains as a City Commission. Staff representative Eric Helm said he would research this. Member Kenney asked what other venues could be approached with this idea. The Commission stated that the County or the Chamber of Commerce could be approached. Mr. Wyman also mentioned that he would research other manufacturers who may require a smaller minimum order.

IV. Approval of Minutes of the October 7, 2004, Regular Meeting

Chair Alt stated, regarding item XI., entitled "Chair's Report", that Member Nemcek did not state that the Illinois Historic Preservation Commission would finance the Heritage Tour books through a grant. Chair Alt also felt that this statement should be a question, since it is uncertain whether the State Commission would fund the booklet. He mentioned that funding for the booklet might be difficult due to the timing of the grant application. Member Riegler moved to approve the amended minutes of the October 7, 2004 meeting, with the aforementioned changes. Member Kenney seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.

V. Crystal Lake Coloring Book Discussion

Chair Alt distributed a handout explaining his idea to create a Crystal Lake historical coloring book. He felt this would aid the Commission in educating the public, specifically school children. The book could possibly be financed using the Illinois Historical Preservation Commission grant funds. In addition, Chair Alt said the grant could be used for the fees to place a structure on the National Register. The Commission then discussed what could be placed in the coloring book. Some ideas included: Dole Mansion (cover), Palmer House, Pump

House, Main Beach, Traditional Williams Street, Pingree Hotel, Old Union School, Train Station, Ice House, Veterans Acres, historic lakeside hotels, and the Theater. Member Kenney stated that the Commission might want to plan two years in advance. Chair Alt said the coloring book could also include historic events, like the ice harvest. The interiors of various buildings were also discussed as coloring book pages. For the next meeting, Member Kenney offered to bring a box of postcards as coloring book page ideas. Chair Alt agreed to send an e-mail to everyone with a list of structures and ideas. The Commission could then add to this list. Member Kenney also agreed to call the City of McHenry to receive a sample of their coloring book.

VI. Discussion of the 2005 Heritage Tour

Member Nemcek announced that two addresses, 40 Center Street and 20 Elmhurst, were very interested in participating in the tour. Member Riegler mentioned that a house owner she talked to may be interested in the tour. Member Kenney stated that the Commission could write an article regarding 39 Center Street. The Commission then discussed what houses to include on the tour and who would contact those house owners. It was agreed that the meeting with the tour house owners would occur on December 2, 2004 at 7:00 PM at the Raue House. However, Member Kenney agreed to verify the availability of the Raue House for that date. The Commission will have its regular monthly meeting at 8:00 PM.

VII. Discussion of the Commission Website

Chair Alt stated that the PDF of Member Nemcek's "Guide to landmarking your house" has layout problems when viewed on the website. Member Nemcek agreed to make the necessary changes and get them to the City. Member Nemcek also mentioned that people couldn't go to the McHenry County Courthouse for research; you must go to the new administration building. Chair Alt shared some website links he had discovered and wanted to place on the website. Member Kenney agreed to contact Greg Fettes to add the links.

VIII. Member Inquiries and Reports

Member Kenney submitted a picture of Member Nemcek installing the plaque for the Raue House to the press. Member Nemcek stated that after he and Member Kenney researched the date of the Pierson House, they agreed on "circa 1882". The plaque for the Pierson House will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Member Price discussed that her reenactment group will be participating in an event to honor the deceased veterans who served in the Civil War at the Union Cemetery at 1:00 PM on Sunday, November 14. Member Kenney presented an idea to have a historical sister city. She recommended the City of Nunda in New York. She will contact a member of the historical community in Nunda New York to begin a dialogue with the community.

Member Kenney stated that Mr. Wyman has submitted a letter to the City expressing his interest in serving on the Commission. She felt Mr. Wyman would be a great addition to the Commission and felt the Commission should recommend him for appointment. Member Kenney made a motion to recommend to the City Council the placement of Mr. Robert Wyman on the Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commission. Member Riegler seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.

IX. Chair's Report

There was no chair's report.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Member Nemcek moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Member Riegler seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye; motion passed.