MINUTES
Historic Preservation Commission
May 4, 2023
City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1) Call to Order
L. Solak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2) Roll Call/Attendance
The following Commission members were present, Ana Freund, Nancy Haskins, Diana Kenney, Brittany Niequist, Lisa Solak, and, Bob Wyman. Judi Halter arrived at 7:08. Bob Kosin was absent. City Planner, Elizabeth Maxwell, was present for staff.

3) Public Comment
None.

4) Approval of Minutes of the April 6, 2023 Regular Meeting
D. Kenney made a motion to approve the minutes. B. Niequist seconded the motion. On voice vote all voted aye with L. Solak abstaining. Motion passed.

5) 997 North Shore Demolition
Owners Angie and Chris Hutchins were present to discuss their request. They explained that they originally hoped to remodel the structure, but the foundation, which is a combination of cinder block and two separate poured areas, was in bad shape and could not be reused. They will be demolishing the house to construct a new house to meet their family's needs.

B. Wyman stated he had done some research on the property. He found that the son of Dr. Watson purchased the property and built a house in 1901. That original house has been removed. He found a list of past owners of the property, which he shared with the current owners.

D. Kenney stated the purpose of this meeting is to be sure we are not destroying something that should be preserved. The Commission did not want the north shore to turn into the south shore with the McMansions. The homeowners stated that they have already received City Council approval for their new house plans, which required several variations.

B. Niequist said that Doreen Orist lives a few doors down in a turn of the century cottage. They should meet her and see the preservation of her house. B. Niequist also stated that prior to demolition if they see any old wavy glass windows, hand hewn woodwork, or any old fixtures or hardware to preserve that. She also suggested salvage companies that can reuse building parts rather than them going into the landfill.

D. Kenney thanked B. Wyman for all the research he did on the property. She noted she has no concerns with the demolition of the house. The other commission members also noted they have no concerns with the proposed demolition and wished the petitioners well with their home construction.

6) Trolley Tour 2023
B. Wyman stated he will contact the trolley bus company to be sure everything is set with their reservation. He picked up the posters and gave them to the Downtown businesses to hang up. Everyone was supportive of the event. He has let Heisler know that he will be in late on Saturdays to collect the money and find out about how many tickets have been sold.

Everyone was impressed with the layout of the book. A. Freund said the layout and grammar was great. All the stories flowed well, N. Haskins and D. Kenney did an excellent job on the stories and the layout.

D. Kenney stated she has begun to put together her "trolley talk" and could share that with the other commissioners. They are passing Central High School that will be celebrating 100 years next year and Bethany Lutheran Church, which is celebrating 100 years this year. B. Wyman said he may also mention some other kit houses along the way. She asked the other groups who would be presenting. They both were going to share the duties. L. Solak said the wingman needs to be paying attention to ensure the trolley driver stops at the right houses and follows the correct route not missing any turns. Everyone should practice the route so they know.

A. Freund said Naturally McHenry County and Downtown have the event listed on their sites. She noted that Naturally McHenry County will have a group of seniors in the area September 6th through 8th and they would like to reenact this tour. They would purchase the $20 ticket if a narrator could join the bus tour. The Commission thought that could be a good revenue source with little extra work. So A. Freund will contact them and let them know the Commission will discuss it again.

There is still time to get ad space in so everyone should make the final push and the deadline is May 15th.

The commission noted a letter needs to be sent to the homeowners whose homes are on the tour so they are aware of the trolley traffic.

7) Cemetery Cleaning and Veteran's Book
D. Kenney is still waiting for the quote from Warner & Troost. They did discuss one monument for Smith. Since it has been on the ground for a long time, it should remain and she did not think another newer monument should be erected in its place. Other members agreed that funds could be spent repairing other stones.

8) Member Inquiries and Reports
A. Freund asked how a house qualifies for landmark status. D. Kenney let her know that it is in the application. She suggested staff provide her with an ordinance and info about the landmark program.

B. Niequist said she has been invited to Princeton, Illinois to assist them in creating their own Historic Preservation Commission.

D. Kenney received an email from the owners of 87 Elmhurst who want to paint the exterior of their house. The Commission discussed the request and D. Kenney will email the owner back.

The Commission noted the ceremony for the 215 Illinois Street plaque went great. It was a gorgeous day and they were so happy the owner was present to receive the plaque.

Staff noted the garage along Caroline Street is unsafe, could fall down, and the owner is looking to demo it. The Commission discussed that the entire property should be maintained and that they would be open to the reuse of the conduit block as accent materials around a new garage.

9) Adjournment

There being no further business, B. Wyman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Kenney seconded the motion. On voice vote, all members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.