MINUTES
Historic Preservation Commission
August 1, 2024
City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1) Call to Order
B. Niequist called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2) Roll Call/Attendance
The following Commission members were present: Ana Freund, Judi Halter, Bob Kosin, Brittany Niequist, and Bob Wyman. Zach Benkert, Nancy Haskins and Madison Sommerfield were absent. City Planner, Elizabeth Maxwell, was present for staff.

3) Public Comment
None.

4) Approval of Minutes of the June 6, 2024 Regular Meeting
B. Kosin made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2024 meeting. B. Wyman seconded the motion. On voice vote all voted aye. Motion passed.

5) 50 N. Caroline Certificate of Appropriateness
Staff noted that they were contacted by the property owner and one of the three walls fell down due to a lighting strike that hit the backyard of the house. There was substantial damage to the house, the windows, the patio, the driveway and this garage building. Due to the unsafe conditions he would be taking the other two walls down that weekend. Staff noted the property owner was able to save some of the blocks.

B. Niequist stated that due to the act of nature the structure needed to be carefully demolished. She would still like to see a plan for the reuse of the blocks. She said this is the first part of this Certificate of Occupancy.

B. Kosin made a motion to approve the demolition portion of the Certificate of Occupancy. B. Wyman seconded the motion. On voice vote all members voted aye. Motion passed.

6) Trolley Tour 2024 Recap
B. Niequist looked over the ledger sheets. The members discussed the finances and believed this tour made the most money. There was a member in the audience that said she was unable to get tickets for this year's tour. She wondered if the commission could do the tour again for more people to be able to hear it. B. Niequist stated the tour is a significant amount of work and to try to coordinate the cost of the trolleys for two events would be very costly.

The commission members noted the participants they talked with had a great experience. Mr. Jim Heisler, who was in the audience, stated it went by so fast because there was so much information the speakers were providing. The members loved the new trolleys, but the capacity was only 32 not 34 so they will need to sell fewer tickets per tour time next year. It sold out before the date of the tour and online ticket sales went great getting more out of town buyers.

B. Niequist said 2025 is the 25th anniversary of the tours so they should be do something great. Mr. Heisler said it would be great to package up some old books or something as a holiday gift, even a gift card for the tour. This would help get people interested in the tour at the end of the year. B, Niequist said she thought there could be an app that would have a walking tour, digitize the books, map the old routes, etc. Staff noted the old tours are on a map on the city's map page

B. Niequist asked the member to brain storm on next year's tour ideas. Maybe they partner with Downtown, get on their sign, which is leased up about a year in advance. They could have a lot of great ideas.

7) Hill Farm Park Barlina Park

Mr. Heisler spoke with Jason Herbster, the Director of the Crystal Lake Park District staff. They can look at ways to raise funds to save the barn. The Park District granted the community time to look into this. There is a park foundation that can hold funds.

B. Wyman suggested they attend the meeting. There is still the question what the barn could be used for. There was a statement that Mr. Heisler and B. Kosin shared asking for the Historic Preservation Commission wants to participate in the feasibility study. B. Kosin said they will go to the Park District meeting and read the statement into the record.

12) Member Inquiries and Reports

B. Niequist said she went to the McHenry County Group meeting. It was good to see other groups. Crystal Lake is years ahead of some other groups in what we are doing. She noted McHenry County has a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant for historic preservation if it can add to business.

13) Adjournment

There being no further business, B. Kosin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A. Freund seconded the motion. On voice vote, all members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.