MINUTES
Historic Preservation Commission
April 7, 2011
Municipal Complex, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1) Call to Order

Chair Alt called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

2) Roll Call/Attendance

The following commission members were present: Diana Kenney, Robert Wyman, Brice Alt, Austin Taylor and Michelle Rozovics. Member Tom Nemcek arrived at 7:45 and Member LeeAnn Atwood arrived at 8:15. Staff member Elizabeth Maxwell was present. In the audience was Linda Spencer.

3) Public Comment

Linda Spencer provided a photocopy of a pamphlet she had found, while doing other research, titled, "Modern Housing Moving and Shoring," dated in 1895. The Commission thanked her for the information since it would help them finish up their articles on house moving. Ms. Spencer also noted that for her studies she was looking for an internship and would like to volunteer with the HPC. The Commission said they did need the help and would let her know if there was any paperwork.

4) Approval of Minutes of the March 3, 2011 Regular Meeting

Chair Alt had one correction to the minutes to change the reference from the trolley tour being new this year to new every year. Member Kenney moved to approve the corrected minutes of the March 3, 2011 regular meeting. Member Rozovics seconded the motion. On voice vote, all members present voted aye. Motion passed.

5) 2011 Trolley Tour

Chair Alt asked if the Commission should have another study meeting at the Colonel Palmer House. Member Nemcek said that all the articles are due by April 15th. His articles are nearly complete and he will be getting the final articles with the sources to Member Rozovics in the next week. The Commission decided to set Saturday, April 9th at 9:00 am as a study meeting to continue research on their articles. Member Rozovics stated that all the articles are due to her by April 18th.

Member Kenney raised the issue of fundraising and stated that she had received a business card sized advertisement from Lloyd's Paint and Paper. She said it is time for everyone to reach out and get advertisers. Member Taylor asked how he could help, what sponsors or advertisers are they looking for. Member Kenney responded that there are numerous businesses in the area that care about Crystal Lake's history and can be an advertiser. Member Kenney stated she will work with the Northwest Herald on having an article written about the tour and giving the newspaper some advertisement on the trolley. Member Atwood also has a connection with the newspaper she can contact. Member Kenney also stated that the printing of the Trolley Tour book would be eligible for a grant through IHPA's CLG program. They will look into this in the fall when the next round of grant submissions are due. This would help them with the 2012 tour book, but not this year. There are some existing metal signs in the basement that Member Kenney and staff will go through to determine if the sponsors would pay a reduced fee to use one of the existing signs.

Member Rozovics raised the question why the tickets are primarily sold at Heislers Bootery. She would prefer the tickets be available at multiple locations. Member Nemcek disagreed and responded detailing the difficulties in keeping track of the tickets since there are a certain number of tickets for each trolley tour time. If tour tickets for the same time were in multiple locations, it would be difficult for purchasers to get a large group of tickets since one location may only have a few left, but another location may have several available. Member Kenney also noted that the commission would be placing a burden on outside groups, like Heislers and the Chamber or City Hall to coordinate every time tickets were sold or have people go between the multiple locations to get additional tickets. Member Kenney suggested the commission explore online ticket sales. The Historical Society has an online payment option, but the commission is not set up this way. Staff member Maxwell stated she would talk with the City's IT and Finance Departments to determine if this is something that the City could set up for the commission. Member Kenney also suggested that online sales be done first because if they are concurrent with walk-in sales there is a lot of maintenance and updating on the website that would need to be undertaken. There may also be a fee the commission would incur depending on the system used to take the payment.

Member Kenney asked staff if the article Chair Alt had written was placed in the City's newsletter. Staff stated that it was. Member Kenney also said that she would contact McHenry County Magazine to see if the article can be put in there, as well as the publication, "Just off the Tracks." Member Nemcek stated that he would contact the Crystal Lake Patch. Member Atwood said that she could create a blog. This would at least give them something that would come up if someone searched online for the trolley tour.

6) Member Inquiries and Reports

Chair Alt said that he has learned a lot about Elgin Watches. Member Kenney said that she believes they have Ben Raue's watch tools.

7) Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Alt moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Member Rozovics seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. Motion passed.