



City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Council Chambers, 801 Michigan Avenue

A meeting of the City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission ("Commission") was held in-person in the City Council chambers at 801 Michigan Ave., La Porte, IN, 46350 on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 5:30 P.M. ("Local Time"), pursuant to notice duly given in accordance with the rules of the Commission and the Indiana Open Door Law.

This meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Dr. Anna Weissman, Acting President

Mr. Bruce Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On call of the roll, the members of the Commission were shown to be present or absent as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bruce Johnson, Ms. Jo Happel, Dr. Anna Weissman, Ms. Kelsey Gushrowski, and Mr. Robert Alt.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None. Currently awaiting Mayoral appointments and Common Council confirmation to fill two vacant positions on the Historic Preservation Commission.

GUESTS PRESENT: City Councilwoman Laura Konieczny, Mr. David Heinold, Ms. Deb Parcell, and Ms. Amy Ross.

MINUTES: Mr. Bruce Johnson made a motion to **approve the December 21, 2021 regular meeting minutes** and the motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Alt. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

CLAIMS: There were no claims.

HEARING OF VISITORS: Kurt Garner West provided a presentation on the Former La Porte Electric Light Company Structures Planning Study that was completed last year.

Amy Ross, 1212 Michigan Avenue, mentioned that she has lived here for 4 years and is looking for help on repairs to house. Deb provided Ms. Ross with her information to follow up on a contractor list for home repairs.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Kelsey Gushrowski made a motion to **nominate Robert Alt for President** and the motion was seconded by Jo Happel. The motion carried unanimously (5-0). Robert Alt made a motion to **nominate Kelsey Gushrowski for Treasurer** and the motion was seconded by Bruce Johnson. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Robert Alt made a motion to **nominate Anna Weissman for Vice President** and the motion was seconded by Kelsey Gushrowski. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

COA(s): None.

DEMOLITION REPORT: None.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: David will send Kelsey a brief outline of what to expect for becoming the new Treasurer and will coordinate changes that need to be made to the Edward Jones bank account for HPC.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. La Porte Historical Coloring Book Update – Bruce reported that Hawkins Print Shop will print a preliminary version of the coloring book to test in one week. Then they will start printing the order of booklets.
- B. Events Committee Update – Robert reported that events are hold for right now until the board has the annual planning session next month. There will be a discussion during the Planning Session in February. Deb mentioned that she has two sections of the Residential Guidelines left to review, then will send the Design Guidelines to the editor for final draft.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Bruce mentioned that Hawkins Print Shop would like to put the city logo on the back of the booklet. Bruce will coordinate with Jess Bruder on approvals for use of logo.
- B. David explained that the request for HPC to be a consulting party with the Section 106 Review of the Indiana Avenue resurfacing project was sent to the consultant. He also mentioned that the walking survey went really well. It was interesting seeing the variations in sidewalks and carriage walks along Indiana Avenue south of Warwick Street. Robert mentioned that it was eye opening experience walking down Indiana Avenue and invited other board members to join him for a cup of coffee and a walk down Indiana Avenue sometime.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. 2022 Indiana Landmarks Consultant Agreement Discussion – Anna mentioned that this item will be tabled until the February meeting. Deb will send a copy of the new contract to the HPC members for review.
- B. Nomination of HPC member for Downtown Design Review Committee – David explained that one member will need to appointed from HPC to serve on the Downtown Design Review Committee. He also explained the makeup of the committee and the process for all reviews. Robert Alt made a motion to **nominate Anna Weissman for the Downtown Design Review Committee in 2022** and the motion was seconded by Kelsey Gushrowski. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).
- C. Common Council Update on 1403 Indiana Avenue Single Site Designation – Laura provided a brief update that the Common Council deferred this item for 2nd reading on Tuesday, January 18 at 6:00 pm. The item was deferred due to concerns about not having enough information to review the proposed single site designation.

There was discussion amongst the board members regarding the logistics of making a decision on single site designations at the Common Council. Deb explained that single site designations may be approved under the significance of the person who lived at the site not the architecture. She mentioned that the Indiana Landmarks easements are more restrictive than the local designation in this case.

- D. There was additional discussion amongst the board about local designation versus Indiana Landmarks easements and how the board can showcase a more positive face in the local community. The board will continue discussions at the planning meeting on February 15th. Deb mentioned that there will be an upcoming training later this year for the commission members to learn from speakers as well as other commission members from around the area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

There being no further business, Mr. Bruce Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Alt. The motion carried unanimously (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.



Historic Preservation Commission President



Attest