



City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 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 at City Hall Council Chambers, 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, IN, 46350 on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 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 5:43 PM by Dr. Anna Weissman, Chair.

The board recited 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: Dr. Anna Weissman, Ms. Fonda Owens, Ms. Jeanne Rafaj, and Ms. Sallie LaRocco.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Jo Happel and Mr. Bruce Johnson.

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

MINUTES: Sallie LaRocco made a motion to **approve the January 18, 2023 and February 15, 2023 meeting minutes** and the motion was seconded by Jeanne Rafaj. The motion passed 4-0.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Fonda Owens provided a brief report on the updated account balances for HPC. Deb Parcell provided HPC with some additional six (6) LaPorte County Interim Report Survey books for the cost of \$50 payable to Indiana Landmarks. Fonda made a motion to **purchase six (6) Interim Report survey books in the amount of \$50 payable to Indiana Landmarks** and the motion was seconded by Jeanne Rafaj. The motion passed 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORTS (CLAIMS, COAs, Demolition Reports): None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. New members welcome – Jeanne Rafaj provided an introduction, personal history, and interest in historic preservation. Sallie LaRocco provided an introduction, personal history, and interest in historic preservation. Anna and Laura Konieczny provided an update to Commission members that they are working to resolve HPC personnel and officer positions as soon as possible.

- B. Orientation binder and training next month – Anna provided the Commission members with a binder of information for serving on the HPC and an explanation of what’s inside the binders. Deb will provide an educational training for Commission members next month.
- C. 1209 Michigan Avenue – Anna explained that she is working with the owners to designate home at 1209 Michigan Avenue. There was a board discussion about the designation process.
- D. Tentative Plan for 2023 – Anna explained that the Commission usually hosts an annual planning session early in the year, but due to member vacancies this will can be done later with the full Commission members in attendance. There was board discussion about the 2023 Annual Plan structure for education and outreach. The board members expressed interest in printing the outreach materials for designated home owners and the general public about why historic preservation matters. Fonda Owens made a motion to **authorize printing brochures and economic information in the amount not to exceed \$250** and the motion was seconded by Sallie LaRocco. The motion passed 4-0.
- E. Biannual Certified Local Government report update – David reported that he has completed the draft annual report that is required every two years to submit to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology to maintain the City’s status as a Certified Local Government. David explained that CLG status makes the City available for certain grant opportunities related to historic preservation education initiatives and other special projects. David requested that board members send their biographies/resumes that include a list of accomplishments as well as the member’s preservation interests by April 14th.
- F. Indiana Landmarks contract update – Anna explained the Indiana Landmarks Commission Assistance Contract for Professional Services to the HPC. Deb explained the contract in detail and mentioned that Commission members are also added as Indiana Landmarks members with the contract. Jeanne Rafaj made a motion to **approve the Indiana Landmarks Commission Assistance Contract in the amount of \$4,780** and the motion was seconded by Sallie LaRocco. The motion passed 4-0.

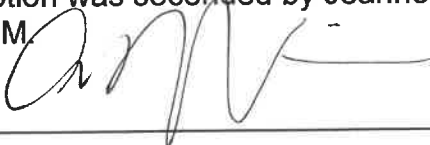
NEW BUSINESS: David mentioned that the HPC should consider amending the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes with a point of clarification that Anna Weissman is the acting Chair. Fonda Owens made a motion to **recommend that Anna Weissman act as Chair for 2023** and the motion was seconded by Sallie LaRocco. The motion passed 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS: Jeanne Rafaj mentioned that she is looking at designating her home on Jackson Street and has completed the research required for the local designation process.

HEARING OF VISITORS: Mark Kurth mentioned that there will be a discussion about Kiwanis Field possible designation as a local landmark if there is community interest. He would also like to have a discussion about other ideas to preserve local historic sites. There was discussion amongst the board members to pursue assisting preservation efforts with historic school facilities such as Kiwanis Field.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

There being no further discussion, Sallie LaRocco made a motion to **adjourn the meeting** and the motion was seconded by Jeanne Rafaj. The motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.



Historic Preservation Commission President



Attest