



City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 16, 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, May 16, 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 5:32 PM by Sallie LaRocco, Chair.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Sallie LaRocco, Ms. Fonda Owens, Ms. Jeanne Rafaj, Ms. Cassandra Redeagle, Ms. Maggie Caviston, and Mr. Bruce Johnson (Advisory Member).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Jo Happel.

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. David Heinold, Ms. Deb Parcell, Kurt Garner West, Peter and Mary Kay Steele, and Mark Kurth.

MINUTES: Jeanne Rafaj made a motion to **approve the April 18, 2023 meeting minutes** and the motion was seconded by Maggie Caviston. The motion passed 5-0.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. National Register of Historic Places nomination: 706 West 11th Street – Sallie opened the public hearing for the National Register of Historic Places nomination for 706 West 11th Street. Deb Parcell presented the staff review and recommendation for approval of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for 706 West 11th Street. Peter and Mary Kay Steele identified themselves as the home caretakers for 34 years and appreciate the support of the La Porte Historic Preservation Commission. Maggie commented that a property listed as outstanding deserves to be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Jeanne Rafaj made a motion **recommend approval of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for 706 West 11th Street** and the motion was seconded by Cassandra Redeagle. The motion passed 5-0.

Sallie announced that the board will take a five minute recess for a photo opportunity on the National Register of Historic Places nomination with the homeowners. The meeting was **recessed** at 5:42 pm.

Sallie called the meeting back to order at 5:47 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Historic District Signage (Downtown Banners, Street Signs, Updated plaques for locally designated homes) – Jeanne reported on the historic district signage with a board discussion about exploring possible coordination with the Business Improvement District Board for identifying the national historic districts. The board discussed having Jeanne attend BID meetings to learn about what's happening and explore possibilities for collaboration between the two boards. The board discussed possible updates to the plaques for the locally designated homeowners. Jeanne passed out a sample style with information about her home that tells a brief history of the structure. Deb mentioned that the Barker Foundation and Indiana Humanities may offer grant opportunities for these types of historic preservation projects.
- B. Coloring Book Fundraising – Sallie reported that \$600 has been raised so far for coloring books. Bruce will reach out to Jo about continuing fundraising efforts.
- C. Sunflower Fair Booth Ideas – Sallie mentioned that the board should consider something to attract attention to the booth such as a singing group. There was an idea to have a live demonstration of window repair or other preservation projects. Sallie encouraged the board members to bring one idea to the next meeting for discussion. The board discussed further ideas such as decorating the tent like a house or having some kind of a history timeline.
- D. Homeowner Education Workshop #2 Planning – The board discussed possible topics for the next homeowner education workshop this fall. Deb mentioned that Indiana Landmarks helps to assist the board with organizing educational events and the board should continue with the two homeowner education workshops each year to educate the community on historic preservation. She mentioned that there could be a workshop on topics such as plaster repair or floor refinishing. Maggie mentioned that another possible workshop could be on window weights, or a windows 102 course. Jeanne mentioned that paint prep and painting could be another possibility with a Sherwin Williams representative. Sallie mentioned that there might be a potential home for doing the next workshop. Maggie will look into options for having a more focused educational event for beginners as a possibility for next year. The board discussed dates for a plaster repair workshop on October 21st. Deb will report back to the board with a presenter, location, and options for the workshop.
- E. Continuing Education Opportunities for HPC members – Deb provided an overview of the educational opportunities available to HPC members through various entities. She mentioned that the City has two scholarship opportunities for HPC members to attend the Preserving Historic Places and Commission Assistance Mentoring Program in Muncie, Indiana from September 19-22 this year. She provided an explanation that CAMP is a good opportunity for commission members to meet other commission members and learn from what they are doing in their communities.

HEARING OF VISITORS: Mark Kurth, President of Preserve Historic La Porte, announced that Preserve Historic La Porte has organized a workshop on historically appropriate landscape design by a Landscape Architect in the area this Saturday, May 20 from 11 am to 1 pm at the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte Conference and Learning Center. There is a small cost for non-members of Preserve Historic La Porte and a discount for Indiana Landmarks members for attendees. Mr. Kurth also mentioned that Preserve Historic La Porte is interested in street sign historic district information in the City of La Porte.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

There being no further discussion, Maggie Caviston made a motion to **adjourn the meeting** and the motion was seconded by Jeanne Rafaj. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.



Historic Preservation Commission Chair



Attest